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THE
ADVENTURES
OF
ROBERT CHEVALIER,
CALL'D
De BEAUCHENE.

CAPTAIN of a PRIVATEER in
NEW-FRANCE.

By *Monsieur* LE SAGE,
Author of GIL-BLAS.

In TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

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M,DCC,XLV.

THE
ADAPTATIONS

OF

DO B. A. CHENE



CATALOGUE OF THE

NEW-SPRINGS

BY MRS. J. S. SAGE
AND J. C. SAGE

IN TWO VOLUMES

VOL. I

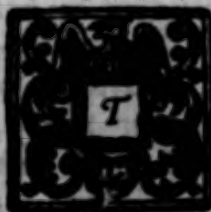
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T H E

Bookseller to the Reader.



THE Chevalier de Beauchene, Author of these Memoirs, after having passed near fifty Years in the Service of the King, as well by Land as Sea, came into France with a considerable Fortune; but the Passion he always had for Play soon threw it into Disorder, not to mention some Affairs of Honour, which his violent and hasty Spirit occasioned him, and which could not be accommodated but at the Expence of his Purse. He lost above two Thirds of his Fortune at Brest, at St. Malo, and at Nantes, and went with what was remaining to settle at Tours. It was in that City, that falling into a Quarrel with some of the English there, he fought with them the 11th of December, 1731, and found in that Combat a Death which he had so often braved with Impunity in the most dangerous Attempts,

At those Hours, when his Madness for Play permitted him to employ himself in other Amusements, he was pleased with sitting down to write the Events of his Life, and with recalling to his

The Bookseller to the Reader.

his Memory all the bold Exploits he had undertaken, and all the Dangers he had undergone; next to the Joys of the Bottle, this was his darling Pleasure.

Another Motive also excited him to this Work, which he looked upon as useful to Society; he imagined that the World would be obliged to him for that Infinity of minute Details that he has given of the Rencounters in which he commanded; for according to his Notions, a Captain of a Privateer, nay a common Master of a Ship, ought to have the same Prudence, Courage, and Address, in the Conduct of their Affairs, as an Admiral has in his.

Soon after the Death of Monsieur de Beauchene, a mutual Friend to his Widow and to me, writ to me from Tours, and let me know that he had perswaded that Lady to suffer these Memoirs to be printed which her Husband had left. In effect, she soon after sent them to me, desiring me to publish them, if I thought them not unworthy of the Curiosity of the Publick. I have perused them, my gracious Reader, and judge that they contain what may be agreeable to you. As to the rest, if in some Places you find the Stile a little too rough, and too much upon the Marine, remember that it is that of a Privateer.

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BOOK I.

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Y Father and Mother, who were originally *French*, went to inhabit in *Canada*, not far from *Montreal*, upon the River of *St. Lawrence*.

They lived there in that happy Tranquility which is procured to the *Canadians*, by the easy Submission the Government exacts from them. I should have been educated well, if I had been capable of Discipline, but that I never was. From my earliest Childhood, I shewed myself so rebellious and so obstinate, that there was great doubt whether I should ever be any Honour to the Family. I was passionate, violent, always ready to strike, and to repay with Usury the Blows that were given me.

I remember one Day, my Mother endeavouring to tye me to a Post, that she

She might chastise me more conveniently, and not being able to manage me alone, as little as I was, she desired a young Curate, who came home to teach me to read, to lend her his Assistance. He did her this Service very charitably, with the Thought that this Correction might be useful to me; in which the good Man was much deceived. Far from looking upon his Aid as a charitable Action, for which I was obliged to him, it passed, in my small Judgment, for an Affront, that dishonoured me, and which I ought to revenge.

I turn'd all my Fury, therefore, against this poor Devil of a Master, and resolv'd to maul him. Finding myself too weak to execute this noble Scheme alone, I communicated it to several Boys, as excellently natur'd as myself, who did not fail to approve it, and to offer me their Hands towards so just an Execution. The Conspirators provided themselves with Stones, and all in a Body assaulted the poor Wretch who had provoked me, in such a fierce manner, that he would have undergone the Fate of the first Christian Martyr, if some People,

D.D.S. B 2 who

who by chance were passing by, had not rescued him from our Revenge. This good Ecclesiastick, whose Name is *Periat*, some time after return'd into *France*. He resides now actually at *Nantes*, in a Seminary, of which he is the Superior : It is not above three Months since I saw him by Accident, and he made me recollect this glorious Exploit, telling me that he was charm'd that he had made a false Perdition; having foretold, in my Infancy, that I should get myself knock'd on the Head before I had a Beard.

My Parents, who saw me every Day in some fresh Piece of Mischief, like this that I have spoken of, judg'd full as unfavourably of me, and I am astonish'd myself that I am still in the World, after having so often exposed myself to the utmost Dangers. Never Child discover'd such a Disposition to be a furious Quareller; a new *Ishmael*, the Son of *Hagai*. I was never satisfied but when I had Knives, Arrows, Swords, or Pistols in my Hand : They were my Play-things. They did what they would with me; if they promis'd me Arms,
and

the Chevalier de Beauchene. 5

and if they had the Imprudence to perform their Promise, I tried them upon the first Animal I met: Before I was seven Years old, there was scarce left a Cat or a Dog in the Neighbourhood. It was thus I exercis'd my growing Valour, till I was strong enough to make a more noble Use of it, and to fight with my three Brothers against the *Iroquese*.

These Savages, gain'd by the Presents of the *English*, sometimes made Incurfions even to the Gates of *Mont-real*; they enter'd the Country in small Parties, concealed themselves in the Woods during the Day, re-assembled themselves in the Night, and fell upon the Villages. They pillaged them, and afterwards retired hastily with their Booty, after having fet Fire to what they could not carry off. But above all they took care not to forget the Hair of those they had kill'd; and, without dispute, they are greater Artists than any Barber in *Europe*, at preserving every Hair, for they tear off at the same time the Skin of the Head. They extend these Skins upon little Circles of Osier, and preserve them carefully. These are the

Standards, the Trophies, they chuse to take from their Enemies. These are the Military Honours of the *Iroquese*. Their Courage is estimated by the Number of Heads of Hair that they possess. They are honour'd and respected in Proportion, and the Glory of a Father, who has distinguished himself from others by his Bravery, has not, as in *Europe*, the least Influence of Honour upon a Son who appears unworthy of him.

The Troop of *Iroquese*, who made themselves most dreaded about *Chambly* and *Montreal*, had one of the most celebrated Savages for their Chief; he himself could have furnished the best accustom'd Peruke-maker in *Paris*, and was the Terror of *Canada*. This terrible Mortal was named the *Black-Kettle*. There was not a Person in that Country who could boast that he had heard that formidable Name without trembling. Will it be believ'd, that publick Prayers were demanded to be deliver'd from his Fury, as formerly in certain Provinces of *France*, the People begg'd of God to deliver them from the Rage of the *Normans*.

All that I heard reported of this famous Savage, did not so much inspire me with Fear as a Desire of seeing him. I knew it was the Custom of the *Iro-quesse*, instead of killing the Children, to carry them off, and bring them up in their own Manner. This made me wish to be carried away by them. I am curious, said I, to know these People by my own Experience, and to try whether I shall not find more Pleasure in their Habitation, than I have in my own Family, where I am scolded and contradicted every Moment: The Savages certainly will let me make use of Weapons as much as I please; far from disputing the Pleasure I take in using them, as my Parents do, they will see with Joy my warlike Humour, and give me Occasions of exercising it. I formed a Design, therefore, to go and join them on the first Incurſion they should make near *Montreal*; which did not fail to happen in a short Time, as I am going to relate.

Monſieur de Frontenac, the Governor of *Canada*, embark'd to paſs into *France*. He was ſcarce departed, before the *Iro-*

quese endeavour'd to make use of his Absence, to revenge themselves for the Ravages which had been made the preceeding Year in one of their Cantons *, by Messieurs the Marquis *de Denouville*, *de Cailleres*, and *de Vaudreuil*. Thus, on all Sides, nothing was heard of but Villages surprized, pillaged, and burnt. As to me, I waited impatiently till the *Black Kettle's* Troop should draw near us, when one Evening the Alarm was spread over all the Quarter. The Men run to their Arms, and prepared themselves to defend their Country. What a Subject of Rapture for me, to behold the whole World preparing themselves for Battle! Instead of hiding myself with the Women, I prepared to follow my Brothers, who were of an Age to use their Swords, for the Defence of our Gods *Penates*; and I cry'd out, in the Excess of Joy that transported me, that I was glad I should see that Savage, whose Name resounded on all Sides. This drew upon me, from my Mother, a Reprimand, preceded by a Box on the Ear, which I durst not indeed return, but

* The Canton of the *Sonontuans*, which was ravaged by the *French* in 1687.

but which I resolved within myself not to leave unpunished. I escaped from her Hands, notwithstanding the Efforts she made to retain me; and running to the Place where I heard the Noise of Fire-Arms, I arrived at the Field of Battle, resolving to take my Flight with the *Iro-quese*; or if they disdain'd to take me, to be however a Spectator of the Combat; as much to revenge myself on my Mother, as to enjoy a Spectacle that was agreeable to me.

The Savages struck their Blow in less than a Quarter of an Hour. They kill'd about thirty People, before they were in a Condition to repulse them, set Fire to several Houses, and retired with a large, tho' not with a very rich Booty, and some few Prisoners, amongst whom my eldest Brother had the Misfortune to be found. As I look'd round with great Eagerness to find the *Iro-quese*, I perceiv'd twelve or fifteen of them unfurnishing a House before they burnt it, and fetching out of it two little Children; I immediately call'd out, as loud as I could possibly, Quarter, Gentlemen, Quarter! I yield; carry me along with you.

I don't know that they understood me, however I presented myself to them with so good a Grace, that they could not refuse me the Satisfaction of being their Prisoner; one of them took me upon his Shoulders, and we soon join'd the rest of the Troop; what is most uncommon was, that instead of crying, like the other little Boys, I held a Kettle and a Copper-pot in my Hands, that the Savage who bore me had quitted to take me up.

After a March of eight or ten Leagues, the *Iroquese* remarking the Approach of Day, halted in a Wood to repose themselves till Night; and as they were preparing to pursue their Journey, they were on a sudden attack'd by two hundred *Canadians* and *Algonquins*, who, unhappily, not having perceiv'd time enough the Place where the Prisoners were fasten'd, could not deliver them. The *Iroquese* who guarded them, having heard the Cry of War †, immediately knocked them on the Head. The

† This Cry, which the *Canadians* have imitated from the Savages, is a kind of Howling, which

The *Iroquese* are easily overcome when they are surprized. They rather chuse to attack, than to defend themselves. They immediately took their Flight, carrying us off with them, and leaving nine of their Men in the Power of the Enemy.

These *Canadians*, who had perform'd this hasty Expedition, were commanded by Messieurs *de Maricour*, *de St. Helene*, and *de Longueil*, Brothers, all Men of Valour, and of the principal Family of *Montreal*. These brave Officers, excited by the Sollicitations of my two other Brothers, made this Attempt to rescue my eldest Brother and myself from the Hands of the Savages.

In that Canton of the *Iroquese* to which I was carried, it was the Custom to burn all their Prisoners. They tied them to a Stake, round which they light-
ed

which is formed by striking their Hands upon their Mouths: It serves for two Purposes; to affright the Enemy whom they surprize, and as a Signal to themselves.

ed four Fires at so great a Distance, that those unhappy Wretches were two, and sometimes three whole Days before they expired. The *Canadians* had often threaten'd the Savages to treat them in the same manner, if they did not abolish this barbarous Custom, and conform to the Laws of War. The *Iroquese* had always despised their Menaces, so that Monsieur *de Maricour* and his Brothers, whatever Horror they had for such an Inhumanity, thought themselves obliged to exercise it upon the nine Prisoners that they had taken.

Every one knows that amongst these Savages, a Man that has been made Prisoner, to whatever kind of Death they destiny him, may be preserv'd from Execution by any one of the Assistants that adopts him, by throwing a String of Beads round his Neck, and one of their Mantles upon his Body, without any further Ceremony. Now it must be observed, that this Monsieur *de Maricour* that I speak of, had been formerly carried off by the *Iroquese*, and adopted in this Manner, and that having found

found means to escape from them, he had return'd to *Montreal*.

He then, as Chief of the Expedition, commanded by way of Reprisals, that the nine Savages that he had taken should be burn'd. He was excited to it strongly by my Relations, who demanded their Deaths with the greatest Entreaties, and all the *Canadians* consented to it; but *M. de St. Vallier*, Bishop of *Quebeck*, happening to be then at *Montreal*, where he came to give his Confirmation, opposed it with all his Power. He made a most pathetick Discourse to the People, and employ'd even Tears to excite their Compassion. But Policy render'd the Eloquence of the Prelate in vain, *Monfieur de Maricour* was inexorable, and all the Spectators judg'd that upon this Occasion Cruelty was to be preferred before Mercy.

The Prisoners were fastened each to their Stake, and the Air immediately resounded with their Voices: They began to sing what they call their Song of Death. This Song generally contains the Enumeration of the Persons they

they have killed in their Incurfions, and the Numbers of the Heads of Hait that adorn their Huts. Notwithstanding the dreadful Preparations of Death that furround them, they appear calm; you fee no Impreffion either of Fear or Sorrow upon their Countenances. They look upon it as a Mark of Cowardice to be afraid to die, and even not to fmg when they are upon lofing their Lives. There are not many *Europeans* capable of this Steadinefs.

Whilst Monsieur *de Maricour* gave his Orders for the Execution of the nine *Iroquefe*, he perceived that him who feemed to be the Chief of them did not fmg; and that inftead of testifying the fame Gaiety as his Companions, he was buried in a profound Sorrow. He reproached him for it in the *Iroquefe* Language, which he underftood perfectly: How comes it, my Friend, faid he to him, thou wanteft Courage! thou feemeft to finifh thy Days with Regret! Thou art miftaken, replied the Savage: It is not Death that afflicts me, and prevents me from fmg. I am more valiant than thyfelf. Look upon my
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*Casse * Tete* ; thou may'st behold there the Marks of fifty-five Enemies whom I have kill'd. But, what afflicts me now is, added he, my having preserved thee, ten Years ago, from the Fate which thou now destinest for me. At these Words *Monsieur de Maricour* looked upon the *Iroquoise* with more Attention than before, and recollected him to be the Savage who had adopted him ; he run to him immediately, calling him his Father ; he embraced him with Transport several times, and then turning to the People, he demanded of them the Pardon of this Savage. The People, already touched by this Adventure, began to cry out that he should be untied, when one named *Cardinal*, a young Inhabitant of *Montreal*, whose Brother had been killed in the last Expedition, approaching hastily to the *Iroquoise* whom they designed to save, plunged into his Bosom the Knife that they wear in that Country fixed to their Girdle, to the great Grief of *Monsieur de Maricour*.

After

* A kind of Club bent at the End, sharp and cutting where it bends.

After they had burn'd seven of the eight Prisoners that remain'd, they left the Eighth exposed two or three Hours to the Fires which were lighted round him, that he might speak more feelingly of the bitter Pangs his Companions had suffered, when he returned into his Canton; where he was sent to tell his Countrymen, that if they did not cease to burn their Prisoners, they must expect the same Treatment in return. This Example of Severity had more Effect upon the *Iroquese*, than the Clemency with which they had always used those who had been taken before; for they had always sent them back free, and sometimes loaded with Gifts. After that Time they scarce ever burn'd a *Canadian*; but, some *Hurons*, and a great Number of *Algonquins*, gave me that Amusement during the six Years that I remained with the *Iroquese*.

Upon my arrival at the Village I found another Mother; a Woman who had lost her Husband and one of her Children in the Combat, adopted me, and making Choice of another Husband,

band, she was soon comforted. But I speak like an *European*; she stood in need of no Consolation: Far from afflicting herself for the Loss she had had, she rejoiced at it: Besides the infinite Honour that redounded to her from the Memory of the Deceased, who had died gloriously for their Country, they left her a Succession of a copious Number of Scalps.

There were several Children of my Age in the Huts, and a great Number in the Village. I could not think I had lost any thing, since I saw I had still a Father, a Mother, Brothers and Companions. But what pleased me the most in my new Parents was, that instead of hindering me, as the others did, from touching any Weapons, they taught me how to use them, and let me exercise them continually. However, I drew upon myself frequently most ungentle Corrections, because I was always seeking Quarrels, and coming to Blows with the other little Boys, whom I wounded dangerously. There was every Day almost a Head broke by my Performances; which occasioned my sa-
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vage Parents often to think of sending me back to *Canada*, though they loved me tenderly. They could not however resolve upon it; for I testified so great a Repugnance to leave them, when they threatened to have me conveyed to *Montreal*, that I attached them still more strongly to me. I went upon Incursions against the other Savages, and they admitted me into their greatest Parties of Hunting when I was but twelve Years old. But indeed I was more formed and more robust than other young People were at Eighteen; had it not been for this Strength which has augmented continually to this Day, and which may with Truth be stiled extraordinary, I must have perished in fifty Occasions, where that alone saved my Life.

I could here give a truer Description of the Manners and Customs of the *Iroquese*, than any other Person can do; but there are so many of those Botchers of Narrations, that I frankly leave to another the Pleasure of making known the Falsties of those that are so universally read. Having been brought
up

up amongst this savage Nation, I must be fully instructed in its Customs; I so strongly acquired the Spirit of them, that I looked upon myself for many Years as an *Iroquese*. Several Years were necessary for me, I don't say to conquer, but only to soften a little that Fierceness which I had contracted by being with these People, so different from the rest of the World, and whose manner of Living suited but too strongly with my Inclinations.

I breathed nought but War: Yet, whatever Desire I had to fight, I refused to follow my Parents when they went to War against the *Canadians*, and even against the *Algonquins*; which they did very frequently to please the *English* who induced them to it, and sent them for that purpose great Quantities of Arms, Cutlers Ware, and Brandy. They made such frequent Incursions into *Canada*, that Monsieur *de Frontenac*, who was then the Governor, pursued them in the beginning of the Year 1695, and approached to pillage the Canton where I dwelt. Our Savages were obliged for this Visit to the *Eng-*
lish

lish who were with us, and who had persuaded them that nothing was so easy as to surprize Monsieur *de Frontenac*, and take him Prisoner.

'Tis impossible to be more embarrassed than I was upon this Occasion. I was absolutely resolved not to fight against the *Canadians*: The *Iroquese*, thinking me strong enough to enter into the Combat, threatened to kill me if I did not behave as the rest. What Resolution could I take! Happily for me the Love I bore my Country was not put to so strong a Trial; for the *Canadians* marched into our Canton in such regular Order, that we were obliged to retire, and let them ruin it, without being able to enterprize any thing against them, or to do them any other Harm than by killing some of their Centinels by Night with our Arrows.

As all their Ravages were founded in destroying, tearing up, and burning, without any Profit by our Spoils, they were soon tired of exercising so fruitless a Revenge. They returned from whence they came; which we had no sooner remarked,

remarked, than we resolved to pursue them, being more strongly excited by Revenge than we had been to the Defence of our Country. We did not in the least consult upon a general Attack. Every Chief of a Village conducted his People as he thought proper. Divided into three or four Troops, for several Days we only coasted round the Enemy, and kept hovering near their Left Wing in the Night, without being able to attack them.

One Evening however we perceived about two or three Hundred of them, who not imagining us so near them, had retired into a Meadow at some Distance from the rest of the Army; we resolved to carry off this small Corps, which we attacked about Midnight. I joined myself in the Party, upon the Assurance that was given me that they were *Hurons*, who were taking to the Left to regain their Country by the Way of the great Lake. We killed at the first Onset about ten or twelve; but four or five Bodies of them, who were placed as Advanced Guards, received us so handsomely, that they soon threw

us into Disorder, and put us to flight. They chose us out by the Light of the Fires round their Troops, and did not send one Musket-shot in vain.

The Passion I had for Arms, not permitting me to be one of the first that retired, I was surrounded with my adopted Father, who endeavouring to disengage me from five or six *Canadians* that were round me, was taken with me. We were fasten'd to two Trees, and we expected they would burn us as soon as it was Day. I was not too well pleased with this Ceremony at my Time of Life; and what mortified me still more than an immature Death was, that having kill'd no Enemies, I had nothing to say in my Song of Death. My Savage Father entering into my Grief, told me, to comfort me, that it was sufficient to prove I died a brave Man, that I was taken with my Arms in my Hand.

Tho' he had reason to believe, that he would be saved with me if I made myself known, yet he exhorted me not to discover that I was a *Canadian*. I promis'd him I would not, without knowing,

ing why, and without telling him that I thought this was keeping the Secret very *mal apropos*. Too much Vivacity, however, hinder'd me from keeping my Promise to him. Amongst those who came to examine us, when it was Light, a tall lusty Man took me by the Chin, to look in my Face, and said to the others, *Parbleu*, Messieurs, this is a very young one: it would be a Pity to have him roasted, he is but a Child: At these Words, which I could not suffer with Patience, I said to him, in a Rage, Great Booby, only let me be untied, and let me come at thee, and thou shalt see whether I am but a Child.

My Hastiness caused an extreme Surprise among the *Canadians*, who flock'd about me in Crowds, to consider me with all the Attention that a young *Iro-queuse* seem'd to deserve, who spoke the *French* Language so well. We were immediately untied, both my Savage Father and myself; they conducted us to the Commanding Officer, who having oblig'd me to confess that I was born a *Canadian*, offer'd us our Lives, if we would follow him. I accepted his Offer
without

without Hesitation, resolving to be gone from him on the first Occasion that presented itself. As to the Savage, he refused to follow me, and never ceased to reproach me, till, having procured him his Liberty, I had given him my Promise to rejoin him speedily.

The Officer who commanded this Troop of *Canadians*, which we attack'd so *mal apropos*, was then call'd Monsieur *le Gendre* : I say, then call'd so, because I have known him since under the Name of Count *de Monneville*, and run through many Adventures with him, as will be seen in the History of my Life ; we conceived for each other, from that Moment, a Friendship, which still endures in its full Extent.

He carried off with him, as Slaves, several *Iroquese* Women, and a great Number of Children. I apprehended much that I was to go with him upon the same Footing ; and in that case I propos'd to make myself known to my Relations at *Montreal*. But my Fears were vain ; he procured me Soldier's Pay, in a poor little Fort that he commanded,

the Chevalier de Beauchene. 25

manded, about fifty Leagues North from *Chambly*, and I enjoy'd a perfect Liberty. He did more, my frank open Air pleas'd him; he took me into all his Parties, obliged me to eat at his Table, and treated me as his Equal.

We pass'd the Days in an agreeable Habitation that he had in the Country, and in which any other but me would have thought himself happy to have been fix'd. *Monsieur le Gendre* led the most quiet and regular Life imaginable there: That did not suit me in the least; it was impossible for me to be satisfied with it long, and to agree to the Taste he had for Repose; I must have Fatigues, Incursions, Combats, or at least some Quarrels to have amused me, and I could find no Opportunity for them there; and yet, in so peaceful an Habitation, *Monsieur le Gendre* and myself were very near dying a violent Death.

An Officer of the Fort seeing me one Morning with two of the Soldiers, who were driving out the Cold with Brandy, join'd himself to our Party. Our Con-

versation turn'd upon the *Iroquese*; the Soldiers, desirous of being thoroughly inform'd of these Savages, asked me several Questions, and I took a Pleasure in satisfying their Curiosity. The Officer entering into the Conversation, question'd me in his Turn; after which, having desired me to follow him, he carry'd me into his Closet, took out a Bottle, uncork'd it, and filled a Glass, which he presented to me: Drink this Wine, said he to me, I believe it will suit your Taste. I put the Glass to my Mouth, only just to wet my Lips, and made the Grimace of a Man who dislikes his Liquor. How is this, cried he? what! do you think it bad? Very bad, return'd I, with all the Frankness of a Savage, who had not learn'd to lie out of Politeness. I see, said he laughing, that you are no great Connoisseur; this is one of the best Wines in *France*; I am satisfied Monsieur *le Gendre* would judge differently of it. I should be glad, added he, to share with him a little Parcel that I have procured of this Wine, which was presented to me, but it is what I dare not propose to him myself; there has been a little Difference between
us,

us, and perhaps he would not receive my Compliment well; you must make use of your Address to reconcile us. I desire no better, reply'd I, only tell me how I must behave. Nothing is more easy, said the Officer, only let him taste of my Wine, without telling him from whom it comes, and if he thinks it excellent, as I don't doubt but he will, you shall inform me of it privately; I will send him a few Barrels, and I have it in my Mind that this little Present will bring about our Reconciliation.

I approved this Project of Accommodation extremely, and promised very sincerely to endeavour to make it succeed. I receiv'd from the Officer a **Bottle** closely seal'd, and I assur'd him I would make the Use of it he desired. By the greatest Happiness in the World, I did not quit the Officer immediately, amusing myself with him for some time; after which I retired without taking the Bottle, which I left thro' Forgetfulness in the Fort, and return'd to my two Soldiers, with whom I continued till Night, driving away Cold and Melancholly. The next Morning, recollect-

ing that I had not done what the Officer desired me, I was preparing to go to him, when a Soldier came to inform me, that he, and two of his Domesticks, were found dead in their Beds, and all three of the same Poison, according to the Information of the Surgeon. I doubted not but this dreadful Accident was the Work of this Bottle of Reconciliation; and after having related to Monsieur *le Gendre* what had pass'd the Day before, between me and the Officer, we made a thousand Reflexions upon it, without being able to fix a certain Judgment, or daring to decide whether the Deceas'd was innocent or guilty. However that might be, I thank'd Heaven for not having given me one of those sedate solid Tempers, that think of every thing, and never forget the least Article of the Commissions they are charg'd with.

This melancholly Event, tho' Monsieur *le Gendre* had nothing to reproach himself with, yet laid him under a Necessity of going to *Quebec*. He proposed to me to make this little Journey with him, and I willingly accepted the
Pro-

Proposition. As we pass'd thro' *Mont-real*, I resolv'd out of meer Curiosity to see my Parents, without making myself known to them. I imagin'd that this was easy to be done, but I was mistaken; my Resolution not holding out against the Emotions of Tenderness that Nature inspires upon these Occasions: For when I came up to my Father and Mother, those tender Names sprung from me in spite of myself, instead of those of *Monsieur* and *Madame*, which I had design'd to pronounce. I was receiv'd at home like another prodigal Son, the Authors of my Birth returning the most ardent Thanks to Heaven for my Return: As to my Brothers, who had never loved me, they express'd no great Joy, and all the Neighbourhood was in Terror, remembering the Tricks I had used to play them. My Father and Mother went immediately to demand my Liberty of *Monsieur le Gendre*, who could not refuse it to their Entreaties, whatever Regret he had to lose me.

'Tis easy to judge, that a young Fellow of my Humour could make no long Stay in his Father's House, without

being tired ; I soon regretted my Savages ; I was not absolutely and entirely Master of the House ; this was too great a Restraint upon me : I thought it very hard to be under a Necessity of submitting to the Right my Father and Mother made use of, to reprimand me with Impunity. As to my Brothers, tho' they were Officers, and older than myself, I soon put them upon a proper Footing. I accustom'd them to submit to me, as well as all Strangers, who, not to be obliged to handle their Arms continually, chose rather to resolve to bear with my haughty Airs.

To avoid the Idleness which I must naturally have fallen into, I gave myself wholly up to Hunting : To this Effect I associated myself with some *Algonquins*, and living more like a Savage than a *Canadian*, I was often six Months without returning to my Parents, who, far from complaining of these long Absences, began then to be obliged to me for them. Sometimes, also, I return'd with a large Troop of *Algonquins*, who had chose me for their Chief, and who obeyed my Orders. When I marched
into

into *Montreal* at their Head, I was haughtier than a victorious General; and woe to that Tradesman who did not salute me with Reverence enough, or dared to look in my Face.

An Affair that I had in that City, in the middle of the Year 1701, attach'd me wholly to my *Algonquins*. The Fact was this: We, that is, myself and about a hundred *Canadians*, undertook to escort Monsieur *de la Mothe de Cadillac*, who was sent with two Subaltern Officers, near two hundred Leagues from *Montreal*, to command at the *Streight* *. When we were at the Place, which is named the *Fall of China*, because there is a Water-fall there, upon the River of *St. Lawrence*, where they are obliged to unload their Goods, Monsieur *de Cadillac* undertook to search the Canoes, to see if we had not brought more Brandy than was allowed. He discover'd more than was licenc'd in several of the Canoes;

* The *Streight* is an Establishment with a good Fort, which was erected by the Orders of Monsieur *de Pontchartrain*, upon the River, or more properly the Canal, which joins the Lake of the *Hurons* to the Lake *Erle*.

and immediately raising his Voice, demanded, with a magisterial Air, whose it was ; one of my Brothers was near him, who answer'd him in the same Tone, that it belonged to us, and that he had no Authority to find Fault with it.

Cadillac was a *Gascon*, and consequently hot ; he affronted my Brother, who drew upon him immediately ; *Cadillac* receiv'd him like a Man of Courage, and making him retreat, he was going to disarm him, when throwing myself between them, I push'd aside my Brother, and took his Place, and repuls'd my Enemy so briskly, that he had no Occasion to be sorry that we were parted. He is, I believe, still alive ; if he dares, let him contradict me.

We were but three Leagues from *Montreal* ; *Cadillac* return'd thither to make his Complaints : I had the Indiscretion to follow him, instead of retiring with my Savages. Monsieur *de Champigny*, who was then Intendant, sent me Word upon my Arrival to come to him ; I was advis'd to withdraw myself, but I rejected this Counsel, which
appear'd

appear'd to me more timid than prudent. I did not hesitate a Moment to repair to the Intendant, without being agitated with the least Fear; on the contrary, I thought he ought to fear me, and did not imagine he would be bold enough to say any thing disobliging to me.

I enter'd into his Apartment with an audacious Air, and dressed as usual like a Savage; I remember he had about him above fifty Officers, besides Monsieur *de Ramefe*, the Governor of the Place, and several Ladies: Approach, said the Intendant to me calmly, approach, Monsieur *le Mutin*, 'tis you then who pretend to draw your Sword against your Officer? Yes, Monsieur, reply'd I, it was me, and I ought to have done it, if I would not suffer my Brother to be murder'd before my Eyes. Your Brother, reply'd he, is a Mutineer, whom you ought not to have imitated, and who must submit to the Punishment inflicted by the Laws, when we can find him. As to you, I condemn you to the Dungeon, where you must remain,

if you please, till Monsieur *de la Motte* condescends to pardon you.

I had perswaded myself, that the Intendant only design'd to frighten me, and that it was agreed that Monsieur *de Ramefe*, with the other Officers, should demand my Pardon, if I submitted without murmuring to the Sentence pronounc'd; but that was impossible, the Word Dungeon set Fire to me in a Moment, and looking upon Monsieur *de Champigny* with an irritated Look,—It shall not be, reply'd I haughtily; as long as I have my Sabre, I will not go to the Dungeon, nor so long as my Savages are in the Place. Thereupon I made some Steps to go out, but all the Officers threw themselves before me, and disarm'd me; assuring me that I should not be punish'd if I obey'd the Intendant. As I would not submit, notwithstanding all that they could say to me, the Guards of the Governor at last were obliged to seize me, and led me, or rather carried me to Prison, not without receiving a large Quantity of Cuffs from me, which they returned a Hundred-fold.

I pass'd three Days in the Dungeon, with Fetters on my Feet, biting upon the Bridle. After this the Intendant, whose Intention was to satisfy my Savages, who began to murmur at my Imprisonment, sent for me to appear before him, and told me that he was sorry that I had constrain'd him to punish me; that he esteem'd me, and that I might depend upon his serving me in every thing that depended upon him; that he only exhorted me to use my utmost Efforts to moderate my Violence of Temper, and that in consideration to me he forgave my Brother; a Favour which proved very useless to him, since the Shame of being overcome by *Cadillac* made him retire amongst the Savages, from whence he never return'd.

The Day that I came out of Prison, I learn'd that Monsieur *de Ramefe*, out of Friendship to me, had made my Excuses to Monsieur *de la Mothe*, and that he had at first obtained of the Intendant that I should be only an Hour in the Dungeon, but that old Madame *d'Arpintigni*, who, unfortunately for me, was then paying her Court to Monsieur
de

de Champigny, had prevented my Enlargement ; that this malicious Woman had represented to him that I could not be treated too severely ; and that she said to the Intendant,—Ah ! my Lord, you ought to let him rot in Prison, you would do a great Service to the Country by it ; nobody is safe from th Fury of this Vagabond ; I, myself, that speak to you, my Lord, have Reasons of Complaint against him ; he insulted me lately with an Insolence that deserves corporal Punishment.

Behold in what consisted this pretended Insult done to this Dame *d' Arpintigni* : I had sold her Furs upon Credit, to pay me at such a specified Time ; she let it pass without satisfying me ; I demanded the Money of her, she refused me ; I threatned her in Terms which perhaps she thought too uncivil ; however, I only told her with an Oath, that if I was not paid in four and twenty Hours, I would flea her alive in her own House, and then set fire to it.

Independant of the Kindness Monsieur *de Ramefe* had for me, there was a very good Reason for setting me at liberty. I was become necessary in regard to the Savages who were attached to me. The War was commenced in *Europe* upon Account of the Crown of *Spain*, and by Consequence between the *English* in *New-England*, and the *Canadians*. This was one of those Conjunctions in which it is important to manage the Savages. The *Iroquese* had buried the Axe, to speak in their Language; that is to say, had made Peace. But it was feared that they would break it again in the Year 1698. Monsieur *de Frontenac*, not long before his Death, had made a kind of Truce with them, finding them stunned by the Loss of their famous Chief *Black Kettle*, who was killed by a Party of young *Algonquins*. There was so little Dependance made upon this irregular Treaty, that Monsieur *de Callieres* judging that another ought to be made, concluded a solid Peace with the *Iroquese* in 1701, by the Care and Address of Monsieur *de Maricour*, and Father *Anselm*, a Jesuit. These two experienced

perienced Negotiators conveyed themselves amongst the Savages, whose Genius they were perfectly well acquainted with, and engaged them to send their Deputies to *Montreal*, who planted the *Tree of Peace* there, as they express themselves, and danced the *Calumet* to the Number of eight or nine hundred.

From that Time the *English*, having spared nothing to induce them to take up the Axe again against us, had partly succeeded; since by vertue of Presents they gained upon some of the Savages, who towards the latter End of the Year 1703, set Fire by Surprize to the Fort which Monsieur *de Cadillac* commanded at the *Streight*.

The Nation of the *Iroquese* in general did not however look upon this Enterprize as an Infraction of the Treaty; for having met with several Troops of them in the Woods soon after, we were received more like Friends than Enemies by them; they would absolutely smoak, and *make Kettle* * with us. Thirty *Algonquins* who accompanied me,

* Boil their Provision, and eat together.

me, at first apprehended that we must come to Blows: But the *Iroquesse* protested to us, that they would never lift up the Axe against the *French*, nor against their Allies; but that as to the *English*, whom they had Reason to be dissatisfied with, they would give them no Quarter. I was curious to know why they complained of the *English*, and I enquired it of them. They told me that they were unsatisfied for several Reasons; and among the rest, for one that they laid to Heart extremely: That they had carried some Furs to *Corlard*, in *New-York*, where, after having sought for two Days one of their Companions, who had lost himself, they found him hanged in an unfrequented Wood.

At this Word (*hanged*) all the *Iroquesse* made the most frightful Shrieks, and expressed the greatest Sorrow. You would have thought they had still before their Eyes the unfortunate Companion whose Fate they deplored. I did not lose so fair an Occasion of exhorting them not to leave so barbarous an Insult unpunished. I did more; I offered

offered myself, to serve their Vengeance, to depart immediately with them, and procure Reparation for this Outrage. They took me at my Word : But afterwards reflecting upon our small Number, they asked me if I could not obtain a greater Succour from our Father *Muntis* *. I imagined that our Governor, whom they called by that Name, would not be sorry to make use of this Conjuncture, to form some Enterprize which might set these Savages at Variance with the *English* for some Time. In this Confidence, I conducted Part of these *Iroquese* to *Montreal*, in Quality of Deputies of their Nation. I presented them to Monsieur *de Rameze*, who stifled their Resentments, and promised them Assistance ; and effectivly, after having writ to Monsieur *de Vaudreuil*, he gave them three Hundred *Canadians*, commanded by Monsieur *de Beaucour*, Engineer and Captain of a Company of Foot. Besides this, he desired me to induce the greatest Number of *Algonquins* I could to join the Party. I assured him, that

* The Savages stile a Sovereign thus, or a Master ; and also God himself.

that it should not be my Fault, if I did not determine a great Number of them to follow me. I made him this Assurance with a Fervor and Zeal, that drew several Compliments from him. But to say the Truth, if I entered so hotly into his political Views, it was not so much out of Love to the Publick Good, as from the Pleasure I felt at the Prospect of ravaging a Country.

I harangued the *Algonquins*; near four Hundred suffered themselves to be perswaded; and when they had given me their Promise, we departed for this Expedition at the latter End of *June*, 1704. The *Iroquese* Deputies were before returned to their Cantons, to give an Account to their Brethren of the Result of their Deputation; one Part of them was to join us in the Way, and the others, on a certain appointed Day, were to enter the Country in several Troops. We arrived at the Rendezvous before the Time prefix'd, tho' the Road was difficult, and above one hundred and fifty Leagues in length. Unfortunately *Monsieur de Beaucour* had
carried

carried with him some *French* Soldiers, who not being accustomed to our Canoes, could not support the Fatigue, and were of much more Inconvenience than Service to us. When these Canoes were to be carried over Land, as they were several times, and especially once for twenty five Leagues, they could scarce drag themselves; this was not the Way to be helpful to us in carrying our Canoes and our Provisions. Yet, this would have been nothing, if one of them had not made us fail in our Enterprize by the blackest of Treasons.

This perfidious Wretch, whilst we halted in the Woods, thirty Leagues from the first *English* Villages, to hide our Canoes there, and to repose ourselves till it was Light, as we had agreed upon with the *Iroquese*; this Traitor having recovered his Strength prevented us, and went to advertise our Enemies of our Approach; so that we looked very foolish, when drawing near a Village which we had depended upon pillaging in the first Place, we plainly perceived two thousand *English* under Arms,

Arms, who waited for us in good Order. This obliged us to retire abruptly, and regain our Wood. As we were not far distant from *Orange* *, the Garrison of which might have intercepted us, we were constrained to return to our Canoes without having fired a Gun. This piqued us the more, as the Year before *Monsieur de Beaubassin*, Son to *Monsieur de la Valiere*, Major of the Fort of *Montreal*, had ravaged above five and twenty Leagues in the same Country, though he had scarce a Handful of *Canadians* with him, and fewer Savages than we had.

The Expence of this Armament was not so considerable, but that we should easily have comforted ourselves for this false Step, if we had come off with only losing our Labour; but we had carried Provisions only for the Journey, reckoning upon this, that the Magazines of the Enemy would furnish us with more than sufficient for our Return. We were deceived in our Calculation, and our Excursion was very near costing us our Lives; at least several of

* A Town in the Province of *New-York*.

of our Companions perished in it, who remained by the Way unable to follow us ; or out of Weakness were bore down in their Canoes by the Rapidity of the Stream, and drowned seven or eight at a time.

My Savages succeeded a little better in this Adventure than the rest ; they continually got some Fish, or some sort of Game ; but in small Quantities, the Season not being favourable for Fishing, because of the Heat. This made them murmur against Messieurs *de Beaucour* and *de Vaudreuil* ; and especially against me, for whose Sake they had taken the Field. One amongst them, a most innocent young Fellow, carried his Resentment still further, and made us all laugh one Evening, notwithstanding the Misery we were in. 'Tis universally known, that the Savages subject to *France* are almost all baptized, and yet so ignorant, that they don't know the first Principles of the Christian Religion : They are looked upon as Doctors, and the learned Men of the Canton, if they carry their Erudition so far as to get by Heart the Litanies

tanies of the Virgin, which they repeat publickly every Morning and Evening as their Prayers. As to the other indocile Disciples of the Missionaries, they can only answer, *Ora pro nobis*, and that very brokenly. It happened then that one of this Rank, who had stunn'd us every Day with his *Ora pro nobis*'s, having one Night kept a profound Silence, surprized us all by this Novelty. How is this, *Makino*, said I to him, after the Prayers, thou hast said nothing to Day? Thou hast not prayed to the *Muntis*. He answered me abruptly: *Matagon tarondi, Matagon ora pro nobis*. If God give me something to eat, I will give him *Ora pro nobis*.

The greatest Part of the other Savages did not think him so much in the wrong. Some of them even imitated him; and as we had eat nothing for three Days, Despair began to seize upon us, and no Person found Courage sufficient to exhort the rest to Patience. I believe we must have all inevitably perished in the Deserts, if we had not been on a sudden assisted by that Providence, against which we had not been able

able to keep ourselves from murmuring. We had still above half our Way to go, when we received a Supply of Provisions.

It was Monsieur de Vaudreuil himself, that sent them to us ; advertis'd of the deplorable Situation we were in, by one of those Savages whom they call Jugglers, he had hasten'd this Succour to prevent our Ruin. This Juggler had assured him that his *Ouabiche*, or *Dæmon*, had inform'd him in the Night, that his Brothers were betrayed, and were returning without Provisions, together with the whole Troop. We had, indeed, two Brothers of this Savage with us, one of whom was his Twin-Brother. Those who know me, know that it is not my Defect to be too credulous ; nevertheless, I confess, that the Jugglers, if they could not convince me, at least, have often astonish'd me. I relate this Fact, because it is certain that, but for this Juggler, we must all have perished in the Woods. In whatsoever manner he learned the Condition we were in, whether by Magick, whether in a Dream, as our Learned hold,

or

or by Sympathy, what did it signify to us, he divin'd it, however, and saved our Lives.

Monsieur *de Vaudreuil* was the first to make a Jest of the Advice of the Juggler, and did not determine to send us Assistance, but by the pressing Solicitation of several Officers, who represented to him that, without having any Regard to the Visions of the Savage, he might seem to believe it mysterious, and charge him with the Conduct of a little Convoy of Provisions to us; this was executed more out of Pleasantry than for any Belief they gave him. Whoever has frequented Monsieur *de Vaudreuil's*, has doubtless heard him relate this History, which he was never tired of repeating, as well as twenty-five other *French* Officers, who were Witnesses of the Confidence with which the Juggler related to him the pretended Conversation he had had with his *Dæmon*.

The bad Success of this Enterprize render'd my Savages more circumspect, and less eager to join themselves to the
Cana-

Canadians, and the Perfidy of the *French* Soldiers prejudiced them terribly against the whole Nation. They would no longer have any Commerce with a People whom they saw capable of violating what ought to be most sacred to Mankind; and if they still remain'd subject to *France*, I perceiv'd it was more out of Fear than out of Inclination. So much Value do these good People, in their ignorant Simplicity, set upon Truth and Probity.

I myself, soon after, made no good Apology for the *French* Nation, in their Opinions, by quitting them in a Manner that could not please them; they would not have failed to have reproached me with it, if, to avoid their Reproaches, I had not abandon'd them forever. This is a Detail which I am going to relate, without considering how to excuse myself for leaving them without bidding them adieu.

Monfieur *de Subarcas*, the Governor of *Acadie*, had freighted, in his Port, a Frigate, named the *Hind*; he afterwards address'd himself for Sailors, to form his Equipage, to Monfieur *Raudot*, the In-
ten-

tendant of *Canada*, and to Monsieur de *Vaudreuil*, who sent an Officer of *Quebec*, call'd *Vincelot*, to *Montreal*, with Orders to make this Levy. This Officer, when he arrived there, was informed that the surest Method of procuring some *Algonquins*, was to bring me into his Interest, and to engage me first myself: He made the Proposal to me, in a manner that did not suffer me to hesitate a Moment upon accepting it; since he began by letting me understand, that, in this Frigate, we should continually cruize upon the Coasts of *New-England*, and that the more brave Men we had on board, the more considerable Captures we should make.

The eager Desire I had to be engaged in a War at Sea, where I imagined that every Day we should have Opportunities of coming to Action, made me employ all the Power I had over my Savages to oblige them to follow me; but this was a still longer Voyage to make than that we had taken towards *Orange*, and the unfortunate Success of our Enterprize, which they had not had Time to forget, did not prejudice them in favour

of another. I could list no more than twenty, who only engaged themselves in this Affair out of Kindness to me, and agreed before their Departure that they should be subject only to my Command. They went further, armed with a Distrust which appeared to them well founded, they demanded Provision for themselves and for me, with the Liberty of going our own Route in particular, either before or after the *French* and the *Canadians*, who were preparing to depart, to the Number of one hundred and thirty, which was granted them.

It was towards the latter End of the Winter, and the Ice, which we had to break through continually, made us employ near a Month in our Voyage beyond our Calculation ; so that Monsieur *de Subarcas*, who, upon the News of our Departure, had several Times sent a Brigantine to take us over the *Streight*, or the *French Bay*, which separates *Acadie* from *New-England*, hearing that no Persons came, recall'd it to *Port-Royal*, and expected us no longer. Some Savages of that Place, who seeing us all gather'd together there, without knowing what

what Resolution to take, gave us this Account.

After having waited in our Turn, therefore, nine or ten Days, living upon the Fish that was left us by the Tides, we held a Council, the Result of which was, to chuse a calm Day, and to hazard some of our Party in one of our Canoes, to go and inform Monsieur *de Subarcas* of our Arrival. The Danger was so great, that none but those who were ignorant of it could have attempted it. It was a Passage of at least thirty Leagues, and if the Sea was ever so little disturb'd, it must swallow up the Men and the Canoe. The *Canadians*, who were sensible of the Danger, were not at all eager to expose themselves to it; they were transported when they heard that I was willing to run the Risque of such a Navigation, with five of my Savages. We embark'd all six in a little Canoe made of Bark, and dressed like *Algonquins*, and in this manner I first went to Sea.

By good Fortune for us, it was as calm as we could wish; the Poets would

have said, that the God of the Winds, in our Favour, had chain'd up his furious *Boreas*, we did not so much as feel the gentle Breezes of a *Zephyr*; the Surface of the Water was as smooth as Glass; and, to heighten our Prosperity, the Weather did not change; and, more fortunate than wise, we perform'd our Voyage without any unhappy Accident. Monsieur *de Subarcas*, charm'd with our Arrival, which seem'd almost a Miracle, receiv'd us with equal Joy and Surprise.

The *Hind* Frigate was still upon the Stocks; she was launch'd into the Water in our Presence, and the Manner in which that was perform'd was to my Savages, and even to myself, a Spectacle as new as it was entertaining. We were continually going into it, as well as into the Brigantine, which was in the Port; we admir'd the Construction of it, and so beautiful a Piece of Workmanship gave us a great Impatience to be at Sea, to see the manner of working these Vessels. In the mean Time Chance satisfied our Curiosity, by bringing into the Port a Vessel under Sail. We were
amaz'd

amaz'd at its Swiftnefs and its Lightnefs, for tho' it was almost as large as the new Frigate, it seem'd to fly upon the Surface of the Sea.

It was a Privateer Ship, the Captain of which, whose Name was *Morpain*, is now, I believe, Captain of one of the Ports upon the Coast of *Canada*. He came there for Wood and Water, and to sell the Prize he had taken from the *English*, and which consisted in two small Vessels loaded with Flour. Monsieur *de Subarcas* always look'd upon our Arrival, and the coming of this Ship, as an Assistance certainly sent by the good Genius of *France*, since eight Days after we saw come to an Anchor, within Sight of the Place, eight and twenty *English* Ships, who expected to have made themselves Masters of *Acadie* with great Ease.

To shew them we were in a Condition, or at least had a Resolution to oppose their Design, we had the Boldness to advance towards them, being about three or four hundred *Canadians* and Savages, Privateers, and Inhabitants of

the Country. But for two hundred Men, that we were at most on each Side, firing at their Shallops, they set ashore four or five thousand *English*, who soon made us retire. However, in our Retreat, we each of us made four or five Discharges at them, before they could drive us from behind the Trees, and oblige us to retreat farther; so that beginning again to fire every five and twenty Paces we went, we kill'd a great Number of their Men; and our Retreat, like those of the *Parthians*, was fatal to our Enemies.

The Governor, fearing that at length it might be difficult for us to regain the Place, sallied out to support us at the Head of his Garrison, composed of about a hundred Soldiers. We skirmished all together with the greatest Vigour, till perceiving our Cavalry dismounted, we thought proper to retire into the Town; that is to say, after the Governor had lost his Horse, which was kill'd under him, and which was the only one we had in our Garrison.

During

During the first Days that the *English* kept us thus block'd up, they sent out Parties all along the Coasts, to pillage and to ravage the Country, that they might have some Profit from the Blockade; but this did not long continue with Impunity. Captain *Baptiste*, a brave *Canadian*, tho' he had only forty Savages with him, soon obliged them to be upon their Guard; he continually was surprizing some of their Troops, which he beat, and then shelter'd himself in the Woods; and harrassing the Enemy thus, he kept them in a continual Alarm.

On our Side we also began to make some Sallies, the Baron *de St. Castin* with his Savages, and I with mine. This Gentleman was the Son of a *French* Baron and a Savage Woman, whom his Father had married when he was a Prisoner amongst the Savages, and he had a Bravery that went even to Temerity; he was generally esteem'd and looked upon as an Officer of great Use to the Nation. He joined to his Valour all the Probity of a Man of Ho-

nour, and a most uncommon Merit ; he, as well as myself, took a Pride in being dressed like the Savages.

At length, the *English* considering that their Ravages cost them more Blood than compensated the Profit, recalled their Parties, and made some Attempts to carry the Place, but they were repulsed in every Assault they gave. Monsieur *de Subarcas* then found how much he wanted the Assistance of the Privateers, and the *Canadians* ; besides that, his Garrison was far from being numerous, they were so little used to War, that, but for us, they would not have held out four and twenty Hours ; the Soldiers in particular had so thoroughly lost all Hopes of being able to resist them any Time, that they thought of nothing but deserting, and the Officers had all the Trouble in the World to prevent them. One Day two of them deserted, who gave Occasion by their Flight to the Privateers Knowledge of me, and their Desire to have me one of their Company. The Adventure, in few Words, was thus :

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The two Deserters having found Means to get out of the Place, without any Precipitation, before our Eyes, and in broad Day-light, turn'd their Steps towards the *English*. The Governor, who saw them desert so calmly, was irritated at their Behaviour, and expressed a great Desire to have them again, that they might be treated as they deserv'd. I enter'd into his Resentment, and offer'd to bring them back ; he made a Difficulty to take me at my Word, because of the Danger I must throw myself into to keep my Promise ; but, without staying to conquer his Repugnance by my Discourses, I chose three of the nimblest of my *Algonquins*, and following with them the Traces of the Soldiers, we passed with surprizing Swiftnefs at the Distance of fifty Paces from the Enemy, who fired upon us, and we overtook the Deserters, who had stopp'd to see us run. We seiz'd upon them in an Instant, and brought them back to the Governor, who had them beheaded that Moment ; at the same time he loaded me with Caresses, and gave me, publickly, Ap-
D 5 plauses,

plauses, that my Violence made him repent a few Hours after.

To proportion the Recompence to the Service I had done him, he had the Goodness to assign to me and my Savages a copious Portion of Brandy and Provisions, which began to be distributed very sparingly. The Storekeeper, named *Degoutin*, who 'tis likely had had the same Employment in *France*, and who imagined he had still to do with *French* Soldiers, would have put fifteen Pounds upon us for twenty, and Bones for Flesh. I complained of it, he affronted me, and I, who was never very patient, gave him a Return with my Sabre, that put him out of a Condition of preventing me from giving myself good Weight and Measure.

This Action was immediately reported to the Governor, who came out with a furious Air, and flew to me with a Pistol in each Hand, swearing most terribly, that he would shoot that Man thro' the Head who durst be failing in their Respect to his Officers. His
Wrath

Wrath affrighted me so little, that I had the Rashness to swear at least as loud as himself, and to defy him to shoot: He was a Man likely enough to punish my Audaciousness, and I believe he would certainly have discharged his Pistols at me, if *Morpain* and some others of the Privateers had not held his Hands, and represented to him, that a Savage was excusable for being ignorant of the Laws of Military Discipline; and that if we learn'd them by degrees from his Soldiers, we might perhaps learn them in return to be faithful and intrepid.

These Reasons, or rather the Necessity he had of my Savages, who would have been cut to pieces to the last Man, or have revenged me, appeased him. He gave us a long Lesson upon our Duty; and told me afterwards, that he pardoned my Violence, because he was perswaded I would not have given way to it, if I had known that touching one of his Officers was attacking him himself, who represented the Person of the King. This was the glorious Action which made the Privateers desirous

desirous to have me with them ; they judged by that, that I was a rash Spirit that feared no Danger, and was incapable of submitting. In a word, I appeared worthy of augmenting the Number of the Privateers. However, they did not yet propose it to me.

The Enterprize which the *English* formed after this, had no better Success than the rest : They endeavoured, in vain, to burn the Vessels that were under the Cannon of the Place. So that finding themselves near wanting of Provision, and reflecting that we beat them with their own Weapons, by making use of the Flour which *Morpain* had carried off from them, and which was destined for their Fleet, they prudently resolved to retire.

They did not imagine us bold enough to dare to attack them in their Retreat ; and in this Confidence they were re-embarking with great Tranquility, when sallying briskly out of the Woods, we fell unawares upon eleven or twelve hundred Men ; who, whilst they were waiting for the Shallops, were pillaging
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some Houses situated upon the Shore. We killed a great Number of them before they could put themselves into a Posture of Defence ; but they were not long before they did so, and were soon supported. We had then a very hot Action, in which we had the Misfortune to lose Monsieur *de Saleant*, one of our bravest Officers. The Baron *de St. Castin* was dangerously wounded, as was also Monsieur *de la Boularderie*.

Some Privateers, near whom I combated, remarked me with Pleasure in the Action ; they perceived, that after having broke my Sabre, I made use of the But-end of my Fuzil as a Club, without being daunted at a Musket Shot that I had received in my Thigh. This confirmed them in the good Opinion they had of my Courage, and they resolved to engage me upon any Terms into their Company. I discovered their Design by the Manner in which they applauded me to Monsieur *de Subarcas*, who to make me amends for the Loss of my Fuzil, which I had broke to pieces upon the Heads of the *English*, made me a Present of that he carried himself.

himself. The Fuzil was a very good one, and has been of Service to me upon many Occasions since.

Instead of employing the *Hind* Frigate to the Use for which it was first designed, Monsieur *de Subarcas* chose rather to send it into *France*, to carry the News of the Enterprize of the *English*; and he charged Monsieur *de la Konde*, with the Care of giving an Account of it to the Court. Several *Canadians* made this Voyage. As to me and my *Algonquins*, whatever Desire we had to go to Sea, we could not obtain Permission to do it; the Governor resolving to keep us till he had received an Answer from *France*, proposing not so much as to send us back into *Canada* till the End of the Summer, unless he received Orders to the contrary. I complained openly of this Procedure, saying, that I had engaged myself in order to cruize upon the Coasts of *New-England* only, and not to be shut up in a Town and increase the Garrison.

The Privateers blew the Flame, and represented to us that we should be
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made a Jest of in *Canada*, if they saw us return in four Months under the Wing of our Fathers and Mothers, after having bid them adieu for so long. They harangued to me in particular; and boasted to me of every thing in their Condition that was most likely to flatter my Inclinations. What is most agreeable amongst us, said they, is that every one is an Officer, and labours only for himself. We are all equal, and our Captain has no other Privilege than that of having two Voices in our Councils; though to speak as it truly is, his Vote goes no further than another's, or rather he has no Vote at all; for if the Question is to resolve whether we shall attack a Ship or not, the Alternative is not in his Choice, and he must necessarily declare for the Attack, or be obliged to fight against his own Opinion. You have seen us under Arms, added they, and you may have remarked how gallantly we used them. Is it necessary to come to Action? we behave like brave Fellows: Do we want an Opportunity of exercising our Valour? Laughing, Drinking, Gaming, they are then our Occupations.

pations. Perhaps you may be surprized that our Vessels are so small ; but consider that makes them the swifter, and we chuse them thus to come up the more easily with those we design to attack. If you are willing to share our Fortune, you shall see that we are not terrified at the largest Vessels : With our Frigates of six, or eight Guns, we often carry off Vessels of Fifty, and manned with two or three hundred Men. And why ? because without cannonading we board them directly, and then one brave Officer is worth twenty Soldiers.

You may have observed too, pursued they, by the Flour that we sold to the Governor, that in the Prizes we take we pay scarce a Tenth to the Admiralty, and all the rest is ours. As soon as we have made ourselves Masters of a Vessel, we divide the Merchandizes at the Foot of the Main-Mast, when that is feasible ; and when it is not, we send our Capture to the first Port to be sold, and divide the Prize. We are not sorry then for being but a small Number. The fewer the Shares, the larger they are ; and as to the rest,
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it has always been found that you never want Men upon boarding a Ship, if the Hands you have are valiant; and though we are seldom very numerous when we attack, yet we always do it without being under Covert, and without retrenching ourselves as they do upon all other Vessels.

All these Discourses and many others that the Privateers were continually holding to me to debauch me, at length inspired me with a Desire of exercising their Profession with them. I promised to join them the Day of their Departure, the most privately I could, because Monsieur *de Subarcas*, who had a Suspicion of our Plot, had forbid them to carry me off with them, under the Penalty of losing what remained due to them upon the Flour, and which he was to pay them in Letters of Exchange.

I was accustomed continually to pass two or three Days in the Woods with some of my Savages, or wandering along the Coast to make Discoveries. When I knew the Day on which the
Vessel

Vessel was to depart, and the Place where I was to expect it, I took Provisions for several Days, and went out as usual with nine or ten of my *Algonquins*, whom I carried to the Place that was appointed me. As soon as I had found it by the Signs that had been given me, I made them return again with me towards *Port-Royal*, wandering through the Woods that I might be able to escape them. I own this was a melancholly Moment to me. When I considered that I was going to leave those Friends whose Lives were devoted to my Service, I sighed with Grief; and notwithstanding the Harshness of my Nature, I felt myself almost as much afflicted as a Father whom Necessity obliges to quit his Children.

I had about thirty or forty Pistoles in the Money of the Country, that is, in Cards signed by the Governor and the Intendant: I had a great Mind to give it to them; but I did not know how to manage it. At last I thought of saying to one of them, that I had imprudently taken these Cards out with me, which were troublesome, and that
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I desired he would carry them for me ; after which, stopping by a Tree, I desired them to go on softly, which they did, thinking I would follow them immediately. As soon as I had lost sight of them, I returned to the Place where the Privateers had appointed our Rendezvous, and I concealed myself to wait for their Arrival.

It was in a little Island twelve or fifteen Leagues from *Port-Royal*. The Sun was beginning to set, when I discovered the Vessel of the Privateers ; it was time it should appear. Moved with the Inquietude I was certain my poor Savages felt for me, I pitied them, and was several times tempted to go to them again into the Wood. I am persuaded they passed the Night in search of me, with the most dreadful Shrieks and Howlings. Be that as it will, as soon as I saw my new Companions appear, I ceased to reflect upon the others, and thought only how I might distinguish myself by my Actions amongst the Privateers.

The

The first thing they said to me, was that the Governor was so pleased at seeing them go away without me, that he had dispatched them their Letters of Exchange with all the Complaisance imaginable. This furnished us with a glorious Opportunity of laughing at his Expence. I should soon have perceived, if I had not been convinced of it before, that I could never be with Mortals of a Nature more suitable to my own. They dressed me in their Privateering Regimentals, and all clubb'd together to make a Purse for me, that I might play with them; for indeed what could we do at Sea if we did not game? I easily accustomed myself to it, and from thence took Birth and Root in me that cursed Passion for Play, which I can never flatter myself with being able to conquer.

I was a perfect Comedy to these worthy Gentlemen at first by my Ignorance, and by the docile Simplicity with which I executed every thing that they told me must be done: The Desire of learning to be a Seaman made me capable of doing any thing; I remember, for Example, that they had the Malice to
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make me torment myself for a Quarter of an Hour to prevent the Ship from leaning on one Side ; as if the Weight of my Body could produce the same Effect upon this great Vessel as upon my little Canoe. Luckily I never gave into the same Folly twice ; and in a Fortnight after our Embarkation, I was as wise as the rest.

One Day, to divert themselves only, they wanted to see whether I was quarrellsome in my Liquor ; and remarking that I did not love Wine, they made me drink Brandy. I swallowed this Liquor without Repugnance, and soon brought myself into the Condition they wish'd to have me. By degrees, as the Vapours of the Brandy obscured my Reason, I began to grow immoderately gay. This obliged some of the Brotherhood to attack me with their Sea-railery. They affected to say disobliging things to me, and to insult me. I was provoked in earnest, and leaping upon them with my Cutlass drawn, I do not know what might have happened, if some of the Privateers, who kept their Eyes upon me, had not seized me behind,

hind, and tied me fast, till my Fury and my Drunkenness was over. What was most unfortunate in this Scene was, that I had given a Cut upon the Face to a Privateer who was much beloved by the whole Company, tho' he was a *Spaniard*. I was very much concerned at it, when I found that all this had been only a Scene concerted amongst my Comrades. Such is generally the Conclusion of these mad Jestes of inconsiderate Youth ; they degenerate into serious Misfortune.

I burned with Impatience to meet a Vessel that we might come to Action. I was very curious to see in what manner I should succeed in a Naval Combat, and I owned frankly to the Privateers that if they made me remain much longer in Inaction, they would force me to regret my Savages. However, notwithstanding the Itch I had to be boarding an Enemy, near a Month passed without the least Occasion offering itself ; at length, however, we met with an *English* Frigate, of four and twenty Guns, and a hundred and thirty Men.

I had not been much surprized, when I heard publick Prayers, Morning and Evening, on board our Vessel; but I was so beyond all Imagination, when I heard our whole Equipage begin to chaunt the *Salve Regina* very heartily. In effect, that Prayer was very suitable for twenty of our Company, who were killed in about half an Hour, during which we remained exposed to the Cannon Shot and Muskets of the *English*, without being able to board them; but as soon as we got Footing upon their Deck we terminated the Affair in a Moment, and for five Men that we lost they had above sixty dispatched, and the rest yielded.

Morpain and his Brethren were convinced then, that they were not mistaken, when they had done me the Honour to suppose me endowed with the Qualities requisite for a Privateer; for I was one of the first to leap on board the Enemy, and throw myself into the midst of the *English*, whom I did no great Harm to, however, because they did not give me time, they saluting me
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immediately with a Musket-shot, accompanied with the Thrust of a Sword, which I received thro' my Body. These two Wounds stopped me short, and hindered me from proving my Valour any farther. We had eight or nine of our People more who were wounded, the Enemies having made two or three Discharges of their Fire-Arms upon us thro' the Scuttles, before they brought too *.

'Tis the Custom amongst the Privateers that every one has his Sailor, whom he calls his Friend, his Brother, or his Partner; this Sailor serves him in his Illnesses, sits up with him, and takes care of him, and if he dies becomes his Heir. If I had lost my Life I should not have much enriched my Partner, our Shares being very inconsiderable; the Capture was not worth what she cost us. We sold her at the † *Port de Paix*, in the Island of *St. Domingo*.

Upon

* That is, Lowering their Flag, as a Sign that they yield.

† This is only a large Village upon the North Coast of the Island, but it has a very commodious Port.

Upon my Arrival in that Country, I was amazed at the Heat I felt there, having never so much as heard of the Torrid Zone. As soon as I found myself recovered of my Wounds, and able to go out, I went to walk upon the Port, where I was informed that a Native of *Montreal* was established some Leagues from thence, in a very handsome Habitation. They named him to me; I knew his Family, and proposed to myself going there, and to pass some Days with him, to see if it was not cooler up in the Country than it was in the Town. Our Captain had me conducted thither, after having assured me that it would be above a Month before we should be in a Condition to put to Sea again. He supposed so; but the very next Day after my Departure, having been informed, that an *English* Vessel, with a *French* Prize in Tow, had passed within Sight of the Port, he informed himself of her Route, and immediately pursued her, without staying for me, or so much as letting me know it; so that returning to the *Port de Paix*, in about a Fortnight, I found them gone.

I had heard that they were sometimes two or three Months at Sea, without stopping at any Port. Besides that, I was not of a Humour to remain so long idle, I was ignorant whether the Vessel of *Morpain* was to return to Harbour in this Port. However, I had the Patience to wait there as long as my Money lasted; after which my Host advised me to take my Route to the *Cape*, which is about fifteen Leagues from thence, telling me there were always some of the Privateers there; and that very often there were several of them together came to refresh themselves there.

I departed for the *Cape*; I had not, I remember, any Arms but my Cutlafs, nor any Wardrobe but my Shirt and my Breeches, and a little Waistcoat which had been formerly white as well as the rest, but had got a grey Dye, which I soon made it lose in the first Brook I met in my Way. Having whitened my Linnen thus, I continued my Journey, leaving the drying of me to the Care of the hot Sun. Towards the close of the Day, I perceived six Cavaliers, who appeared to be taking
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the Air in the Plain. They approached me, and began to question me. I told them frankly who I was, and where I was going. They thereupon informed me, that it would be very dangerous for me to go my Journey on Foot. That I should find several Rivers which I could not swim across, without exposing myself to be devoured by the monstrous Fishes*, with which they abounded. I fear no Fishes, *Messieurs*, replied I, I swim as well as they do, and they have no Cutlafs as I have.

This Answer, and several others that I made them, inspired them with a Desire of keeping me with them for some Time, and doing me Service, as I found afterwards. The principal of these Gentlemen was a Captain of the Coasts, named *Remouffin*, born a *Creolian*, as was his Wife; and most of those who were with him were his Relations. He possessed great Riches, and his Habitation contained a little Colony of Negroes.

Monsieur de Remouffin invited me very complaisantly to make some Stay
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* These Fishes are called *Caymans*.

with him ; and seeing that I excused myself,—at least, said he to me, remain with us till To-morrow. I can't suffer a Man of Honour, as you seem to be, to pass the Night in the open Air so near my House. It was to no purpose for me to tell them, that bred up from my Infancy among the Savages, I was accustomed to lay upon the Ground ; my Resistance was in vain. Two of these Gentlemen dismounted, and put me up by force behind Monsieur *de Remoussin*. I had no need of their Assistance, nor even of a Stirrup to mount, if I had had a Mind ; but I was out of Countenance, and did not know what Resolution to take. They embarrass'd me more by their Civilities, than they would have done if they had attack'd me all six at once.

When you find yourself in an unknown Country, with utter Strangers, you can't guess whether their Caresses are a Prelude to the Good or Harm they design to do you. According to the different People, some will surprize and convey you to Death, by the same Methods that others employ for your Assistance.

sistance. This is an Embarrass that I have been often in ; and to speak frankly upon this Occasion, I was not without Distrust. Though these People, thought I, speak *French*, they are perhaps *English* Men, who design to lay me in Irons, or put me cruelly to Death ; however, if they would but declare themselves my Enemies, I should kill some one or other of them, and I should die satisfied.

I believed, however, that there were none in that Country but *French* and *Spaniards*, whose Interests were then united: But then I remembered that the Privateers had told me, that notwithstanding the Alliance of the two Nations, I must be upon my Guard against the latter, who would sometimes poniard a Man whilst they embraced him.

At some Moments I imagined I might be fallen into the Hands of Robbers ; and when I fixed upon that Thought, I did not find they had any great occasion to rejoice at this Encounter, since my whole Treasure consisted

sisted of about thirty *Sols**, which was to have carried me the fourteen Leagues I had to go.

The Habitation to which they conveyed me was at no great Distance, we soon arrived there: Here, Ladies, here, cried Monsieur *de Remoussin*, calling his Wife and some Friends who were with her: Here is a curious Savage that I have brought you. Without going into *Canada* you shall see an *Iroquese*, but an *Iroquese* that will not frighten you. At the Name of *Iroquese*, these Ladies forming to themselves the Idea of a Monster not unlike their Negroes, advanced to view me; and it was not without Astonishment, that they saw a tall, well-looking Youth, fair and light-hair'd, as most of the *Canadians* are.

Though at the Sight of these amiable Persons I was something reassured, and began to think I was with People of Consideration; yet I addressed myself to them with an Air that was a little too much upon the *Iroquese*. But they must excuse me, I was not a very proper Person

* Thirty *Sols* is about 2 s. 6 d.

son for conversing with the Fair Sex. However, being obliged to answer the Questions the Ladies made me concerning *Canada*, the Savages, and their Manner of Living, I found they were not difficult to be pleased. I even perceived that I diverted them extremely, notwithstanding the Freedoms of Speech with which I enlivened my Narration. They found a Frankness and Simplicity in my Discourse that delighted them.

A splendid Supper was served up. There wanted nothing for me to have been charmed with the Repast, but the Permission of drinking clear Water. But all the Guests made me drink Wine after their Example ; which they did in so engaging a Manner that I could not excuse myself, whatever Dislike I had to that Liquor. It inspired me with so much Vivacity, that the Company having testified their Curiosity to know why I had abandoned the *Iroquese*, and afterwards left *Canada* ; they had reason to be satisfied with the Account I gave them of it. Above all, I gave them a Detail of the Siege of *Port-Royal*, with

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Raptures, and the attacking the *English* Ship and taking it, without omitting the least Circumstances: What pleased them the most was, that at every Sentence I cried, *Oh! I shall go to Sea again directly*; and this Burthen of my Discourse made the Company laugh excessively.

Madame *de Remouffin*, surprized to see me in so early an Age so bent upon War, reproached me with it, asking me maliciously, how many of the *English* I had eat since I cruized the Seas; not doubting, said she, but I was warlike enough to follow the Customs of the *Savages*, who say, that a conquered Enemy personally augments their Provisions. I was sensible that I deserved this Stroke of Raillery, and that, in effect, it was wrong in me to make such dreadful Descriptions before the Ladies. But it is a constant Rule, that every Man loves to speak well of his own Profession. I was, however, afterwards something more reserved.

When we arose from Table, Monsieur *de Remouffin* conducted me himself into
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an Apartment, where he said me, here is your Chamber and your Bed; you stand in need of Repose, and you may enjoy it here as quietly as if you was in your own Family. They will bring you what is necessary to pass the Night, and if you want any thing more, you have nothing to do but to ask for it freely. He went out after saying this, and two Negresses came and made the Bed; they afterwards presented to me a Shirt, a Night Cap, and a Towel, whilst two Negroes, who had brought a Bason of clean Water, kept continually bawling to me, *Wash, Master, wash*: As I was not used to such Ceremonies, I looked very attentively upon upon the Negroes without making them any Answer. They took my Silence for a Consent, and were beginning to undress me, but not at all pleased with the Assiduity of my *Valets de Chambre*, I was preparing to give them their Dismission, and turn them out of the Door, when Monsieur *de Remoussin*, who heard the Dispute into his Apartment, came to ask me why I made so many Ceremonies. I told him, that not being able to return such great Favours, it was sufficient for me to pass

the Night in one of his Negroe's Huts, that I might not be troublesome, and might depart by Break of Day.

You reckon without your Host, replied he, if you propose to leave us To-morrow; it is what I shall not permit in the least. We know too well the Dangers you would be exposed to in pursuing your Journey. If you will absolutely go to the *Cape*, instead of waiting here for your Companions, I promise to carry you there myself speedily in my *Pirogue* *. In the mean time, added he, putting eight or ten *Louis d'Ors* into my Pocket, here is something to divert you with, and to play with us if you like it. In fine, look upon me as your Brother, and make yourself easy.

This generous and noble Behaviour of the Master made me receive the Services of the Slaves without any farther Ceremony, and letting the Negroes do

* A Kind of Shallop often made only of the Trunk of a Tree, especially in *South America*. These Pirogues are very swift, and some them will carry upwards of fifty People.

do what they pleased, I was soon undressed, washed, scrubb'd, and put to Bed. I may say with Truth, that the next Day, and all the following, I was treated like a perfect spoil'd Child. Both the Ladies and Gentlemen endeavoured who should caress me most, and who should be most obliging to me; this made me sensible of the Difference there is between the Assistance that can be expected from Savages; and what an unfortunate Stranger finds from a civilized and a humane Nation, as the *French* are in general, and particularly in the *American* Islands.

Not being accustomed to the excessive Heat of the Climate, I was generally left with the Ladies, whilst their Husbands mounted on Horseback, and made their Patrole upon the Coasts. The Habitation was a perfect Seraglio to these unfortunate Women; they saw none but their Husbands, and with them they had Rivals in their Negresses. Some of Madame *de Remoussin's* Relations, who perceived it but too plainly, complained pretty loudly; but they had to do with
Gentle-

Gentlemen who did not give themselves much Concern upon that Head.

One of these neglected Spouses, who I presume suffered with more Impatience than the rest this Alienation of her Rights, cast her Eye upon me by way of Reprisal. She made me all the Advances that a Woman of Fashion can make, who is carrying on a Design she is ashamed of; but I was then so uninstructed in that Article, that she must have spoke extremely plain to have made me understand her: She would often take me aside, and press my Hand in her's; and looking very languishing upon me, pity me for the Inconveniences I felt from the Heat of the Climate; she sighed over the Wounds I had received in attacking the *English* Ship, and exhorted me tenderly not to expose myself thus any more. Is it not a Pity, said she to me, so young and so amiable as you are, that you have embraced the most dangerous, and most toilsome Profession. Should not you rather chuse to remain with us in this charming Solitude, than to expose yourself to so many Dangers? I am perswaded, added she,

she, that you would have a better Taste than our Spouses, and that you would prefer us to the Negresses. Speak, *Monsieur de Beauchene*, is it not true, that we are better than them? I confess to all these Questions, which gave me very fair Play, I knew how to make no other Answer than *Yes, Madame; No, Madame; You are very good indeed, Madame.*

Most of my Readers doubtless will say, that I acted the Part of a Block-head here; I agree to it; but some perhaps may cry out, Oh! valuable Ignorance! Oh! too happy Simplicity! What is absolutely certain is, that if I had violated the Laws of Hospitality, by taking an Advantage of the Weakness that was testified, *Monsieur de Remoussin*, and his Relations, would have been very capable of punishing me for it. However that might have been, now, when I recal this Adventure to my Memory, the only thing I reproach myself with, is my having several Times afterwards repented that I was so honest a Man.

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The Lady, who had so unprofitably tried her Power upon me, did not fail to tell the others, that she believed me insensible to Love. They all thought the same Thing of me. Some of them laughed at it, but some of them said very seriously, 'Tis a Pity. This appeared a great Defect to them in a Youth of my Figure ; they talked of it to their Husbands ; at last the Report spread amongst the Negroes, and I soon became, without perceiving it, the Discourse of the whole Family.

For the Punishment of my Sins, a cursed Negress, who served Madame *de Remoussin* as her Woman, offered to revenge the Ladies of my Insensibility ; she boasted that she should be able to give me a Taste for the Sex. All the Company applauded this Enterprize, which appeared worthy of Reward ; four Gentlemen promised each of them a *Louis d'Or* to the Undertaker if she succeeded. Oh ! People of this World, how difficult is it for Innocence to be preserved long amongst you !

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The Negrefs lost no Time ; that very Evening, this Minister of *Satan* behaving to me as she thought suited to a Savage and a Privateer, she came into my Chamber in the Night. Monsieur *de Remoussin* and his Friends were listening at the Door. She approached the Bed very impudently, and addressing her Speech to me, Monsieur, the *Canadian*, said she to me, I have perceived that you are in Love with me, and I shall not let you languish any longer. This audacious Preface, if I had been thoroughly awake, would have been more likely to assist my Virtue than corrupt it. I should undoubtedly have repulsed the Caresses of this impudent Wretch, whose Deformity I knew ; but I was half asleep, and by consequence have but a very confused Idea of the Reception I gave her.

In the mean Time the Gentlemen, who supposed they had not given their Money for nothing, were incessantly laughing amongst themselves at the Trick they had played me. The next Day, whilst we were at Dinner, they began to rally the Ladies, upon their
not

not having found out the Art of pleasing their Guest. Really, Ladies, said Monsieur *de Remoussin* to them, I think you ought to have spared us the Trouble of finding out Amusements to detain him in our Habitation: It is a Shame for you, that your Charms alone had not the Power of rendering it agreeable to him. What consoles us, replied Madame *de Remoussin* laughing, is that the Heart of the Chevalier is accessible only to Glory; 'tis a Conquest denied to Love. If he is insensible to our Worth, added another of the Ladies, at least he does not do us the Injustice to prefer such Monsters to us as your Mistresses are.

You have too bad an Opinion of the Chevalier, said one of the Men, I judge more favourably of him. I will lay any Wager that these Monsters don't displease him, and that he gives, as we do, the Prize to the *African Venus*. No, that I don't, cried I, in an abrupt Tone! I must have lost my Senses and my Eyes, to be capable of making such a Choice; and I cannot believe that any Man in the World can think such odious Creatures agreeable. You hear him,
Ladies,

Ladies, resumed Monsieur *de Remoussin*, you ought to think yourselves obliged to the Chevalier for what he says here; for he only speaks thus out of Complaisance and Consideration for you. No, Monsieur, replied I, I think I ought to know my own Mind best; and once more I declare, I don't love those infernal Beauties, nor never shall love them.

At this Reply Monsieur *de Remoussin* calling to the Negress who had seduced me, — Approach *Angoletta*, said he to her, come and confound the Chevalier. Tell us the Truth, Child, and you shall not have the least Harm done you; but if you dissemble it, I will have you tied to a Post, and have fifty good Lashes applied to you: What passed last Night between this Gentleman and you? Upon this *Angoletta*, in a trembling Voice, made the Recital of her Nocturnal Adventure, and said a great deal more than was true. The Ladies, who knew the Nymph to be a Person accustomed to play such Parts, would not do me the Honour to believe me, whatever I could say to them, to persuade them that the Negress had related a
Fic-

Fiction. My Embarrass, the Surprise of the Women, and the Laughter of the Men, formed a Scene that was not unentertaining. As to me, I had no Inclination to laugh, I could willingly have strangled the impudent Devil that was the Cause of my Confusion. If I had had the most inexcusable Fault to reproach myself with, it might have been thoroughly expiated by my Shame. I was two or three Days before I durst look the Ladies in the Face; and this Jest was the Occasion of an Accident that gave me an Illness, of which I must have inevitably died, but for the extraordinary Care that was taken of me.

Not being able now to resolve upon keeping the Ladies Company, when their Husbands were absent, I walked about by myself in the Grounds. In my Walks I gathered Oranges and eat them, and eat so great a Quantity one Day, that in the Night I had a Fever, with a dreadful Flux; my Stomach too began to swell, in the manner it does with those who first come from *France* into the Islands: When they perceived it was the Disorder which is called in that Coun-

Country, *The Stomach Illness*, they brought me two of the strongest Negroes, who taking me under the Arms, made me walk by force, and forced me along through very rough Ways, and up several Hills. Without this toilsome Exercise, which is the only Remedy in this Disease, the Patient falls involuntarily into a Dose, during which his Legs and his Body swell, and he seldom recovers it.

Besides the Negroes who walked me about all the Day, there was obliged to be others to watch me in the Night, and they had as much Employment as the first. They were obliged to hold me down by Force, and sometimes to tie me; or I should have wounded, or perhaps killed myself, in these Excesses, which were generally very violent. In my Deliriousness I was boarding a Ship, and presently I was hunting with the *Iroquese*. At the End of one of these Fits, being come to myself again, I perceived the Negress *Angoletta* sitting by my Bed. In my first Movement of Passion I was tempted to feign, that the Fit was not yet over, and to seize upon her,

her, and revenge myself sufficiently for the Trick she had played me. I had even already begun to cry out, in the *Iroquese* Language, *Ibetiatb begbein kaboonrai, kaboonrai, acistab**; but remarking that the poor Wretch was very assiduous in endeavouring to help me, I could not resolve to return her Services so ill.

The Negroes, who were watching all Night with me, were incapable of working in the Day, which was a Prejudice to Monsieur *de Remoussin*. Happily my Illness was of no long Duration, and by degrees I recovered. Penetrated with the Attentions and Goodness of my Host and Hostess, and the Kindness of their whole Family, I believe I should have renounced the Sea for ever, to live always with them, if *Morpain* had not come to anchor at the *Port de Paix*. He sent several Privateers to enquire after me; I was too near the Town for his Enquiries to be in vain; besides, nothing was more talked of every where than the *Iroquese* of Monsieur *de Remoussin*. Two of my Comrades, therefore,

* That is, *To Arms, Brethren, to Arms.*

fore, soon arrived at his Habitation, and appeared transported with Joy at seeing me again.

Tho' their Arrival was not very agreeable to the Family, since they came to force me from them, yet they were very well received. Such was the Kindness that had been conceived for me, that my Departure afflicted them all; I cannot think of it still without being mov'd. No Creature would bid me adieu. Monsieur *de Remoussin* only had the Courage to see me depart. I protested to him, that I would never forget what he had done for me: I told him, that I had nothing to offer him but my Sword, but if he should ever stand in need of that, or of those of the whole Ship, I begged him to depend upon them: That I should all my Life think it my Duty to shed the last Drop of my Blood for him. What I exact from you, my dear Chevalier, said he, with his Eyes filled with Tears, is never to forget me, and to let us hear of you as often as it is possible. I wish you never may have Occasion for it, added he, but whatever is your Fate, look upon my House always

ways as your own: Pronouncing these Words he embraced me tenderly, and we parted. To compleat his Generosity, he had me conveyed to the Port *de Paix*, with four Horses; one loaded with Linnen and Cloaths for my own Use, and the others with Oranges, Wine, Brandy, and other Refreshments for our Vessel.

Morpain was transported to find me the same that he had left me; I mean, fully disposed to share with him in any new Dangers. There appeared to me to be great Changes on Board, I saw all strange Faces: 'Tis the Fate of the Privateers; they seldom grow old in their Profession. *Morpain* informed me, that my first Companions had almost all perished in three Combats, in which he had taken three several Prizes; and that he was searching every where for brave Fellows to supply their Places.

As it was not my Fault that I had not combated with them, I had my Share as well as the rest in the Captures that had been made; they were pretty considerable, and I was not a little surprized

ed to find myself rich so suddenly. I thought that Heaven had sent me all this Wealth, that I might testify my Gratitude to Monsieur *de Remoussin*. I made an Exchange of some Moveables that had fallen to me, for a Gold Watch that fell to one of my Companions: I put it into a small Basket, under a *Rouleau* of twenty *Louis d'Ors*; and sent it to Monsieur *de Remoussin* by a Tradesman, who I knew did all his Business at the Port, and who took care to inform him of all that passed there.

I had charged my Commissioner to say we were departed, and that he had seen us at a great distance from the Port before he left it; but he did not obey me. For he brought me back my Basket the same Evening, with a long Letter, in which Monsieur *de Remoussin* reproached me for this Procedure, which made him fear, he said, that I had not received the Marks of his Friendship with the same Pleasure as he had given them. He sent me word, however, that not to refuse every Thing, he had accepted the Watch. This was true; but

but he had put in the Place of it five and twenty *Louis d'Ors*, and that was more than its Value. In fine, it was writ in the Book of Fate that I should have all the Obligations upon Earth to this worthy Man, without ever being able afterwards to testify my Gratitude to him ; for in all my Cruizes upon the Sea, after that time, I never had an Opportunity to harbour at the Port *de Paix*, though I wished it excessively*.

Four or five Days after I had rejoined *Morpain*, his Vessel was in a Condition to depart. We went to cruize upon the Coasts of *Jamaica*, and took several Prizes during the five Months that we remained there. We sold the last at *Petit Goave*, of which the Count *de Choiseul* was then Governor. It was a Vessel loaded with *Madeira* Wines ; which was a very agreeable Capture, both to the Governor and the whole Country. We were obliged to lay by several Months to refit our Vessels, which were
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* When I arrived at *Nantz* in 1712, I was informed by some Natives of *St. Domingo*, that he was then lately dead : I regretted him more than I should have done a Father.

but in a bad Condition. During that Time, *Monsieur de Choiseuil*, to occupy us, resolved to let us make some Cruizes under an old celebrated Privateer, who had retired from the Sea to live peaceably in a rich Habitation which he had not far from *Petit Goave*. This was the famous *Montauban*, who in the late War had conveyed into *Bourdeaux* five *English* Prizes that enriched the whole City.

Monsieur de Choiseuil found it difficult to perswade *Montauban* out of his Retreat; either because this Privateer now wished only for Repose, or that he had a Foreboding of what was to happen to him. However, he suffered himself to be perswaded. He accepted the Commission, together with a handsome Frigate of fourteen Guns; *Monsieur de Choiseuil*, who had her in the Port, made him a Present of her. She was called the *Nero*; we no sooner knew that *Montauban* was again to put to Sea, but we almost all engaged ourselves with this Hero of the Privateers. We set sail to the Sound of Trumpets, and with a Discharge of all the Cannons of the

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Place,

Place. It seemed as if we were certain of Victory.

Upon our Route towards the Island of *Jamaica*, passing within Sight of a little Port called *la Quaye de St. Louis*, we discovered a *Spanish* Vessel which had harboured there to escape an *English* Man of War, that had given him chase for two or three Hours. This *Spanish* Ship was of forty Guns, and very weak in Hands, though she was loaded with *Piaftres*. They did not indeed think they should have made their Voyage alone, having been driven from their Convoy by a Storm. The Captain sent to demand of us, if we would escort him to the *Havanna*, offering us for that Service whatever Sum we pleased. We answered him, after having held a little Council upon it, that a Voyage to the *Havanna* would carry us too far out of our Way, and put us out of our Designs, for the Execution of which we had a Time prefix'd; that we were going to cruize upon the Coasts of *Jamaica*, and all that we could do to serve him, was to conduct him to
the

the Port of *Sant Jago*, upon the Coast of *Cuba*, or perhaps to *Santo Spirito*.

The *Spanish* Captain accepted our Offers, and *Montauban*, who was well known by most of his Crew, swore upon his Honour, that till they were in a Place of Safety he would never quit them, but to pursue any of the *English* whom Chance should throw in his Way; and that in this Case he only exacted from them the Complaisance of waiting for us, promising that he would rejoin them after our Expedition was finished. The *Spaniards* charmed at having us for the Defenders of their *Piastres*, sailed briskly along in our Company, giving us a thousand Demonstrations of Gratitude; and to engage us the more to be faithful to them, there passed not a Day but they regaled us on board them in our Turns.

One Night the Misty Weather had driven us from them a considerable Way, and the next Day at Ten o'Clock in the Morning, when we saw them again, we remarked they were not twice the Distance of a Cannon-Shot from an *Eng-*

lish Frigate of six and thirty Guns. When we had rejoined the *Spaniards*, they told us they had made a Feint of coming up with the *English*; but that in reality they had no Inclination to it.

As to us, we did not make so many Ceremonies; we pursued the *English* Vessel, and came up to her in a very short Time, though she was a good Sailor. I must do the *Spanish* Captain Justice: He did all that was possible to follow us, and run the Hazard of the Combat with us. We had on board four *Spaniards*, with whom we had passed the Night at play. At first they were not idle Spectators; but they soon became so when they saw in a Moment twenty Privateers upon the Deck of the Frigate, dispatching the *English* with so much Vigour, that without being supported by our Brethren, or the *Spanish* Vessel which had drawn near, we soon constrained them to bring to. The four Senior *Caviljeros* who were on board us, told their Captain after the Action, that we were Devils and not Men. The best Part of our Prize consisted of one hundred and fifty Negroes, whom we sent

sent to be sold at *St. Louis*, though we received no Profit from them, since we never heard any more either of them or the Vessel that carried them.

As we had shewn the *Spaniards* our Manner of Attacking, we had not long after an Opportunity of convincing them, that a Parole of Honour is not less sacred amongst the Privateers, than it is amongst politer Soldiers. One Day one of our Companions, whose Name I have forgot, having heated his Brain by Drinking on board the *Spaniard*, told us, when he returned to our Vessel, that if we would follow his Advice, we might make our Fortunes at once, without exposing ourselves to the least Hazard. Upon this we asked him in what Manner? By carrying off the *Spanish* Vessel, replied he, that we are escorting. We will retire with it to *Bouca-tor*, after we have dispatched the Crew.

Montauban at this Discourse looked fixedly upon us all, as if to read in our Looks what we thought of such a Proposition; and though there was not one

among us that did not appear incensed at it—Gentlemen, said he to us, I give you up the Place you have entrusted me with, if I must be a Witness of this Treason's being proposed with Impunity; set me a-shore only upon the first Coast, 'tis all the Favour I beg of you. Why should you quit us, Monsieur, replied we all, is there any one here that approves this Perfidy that gives you Horror? 'Tis for that base Wretch who was capable of conceiving such a Thought to separate from us; let him go and seek his Accomplices elsewhere. We deliberated immediately upon the Treatment we should give this Wretch, and it was agreed that we should immediately set him a-shore without delay; we even swore, that none of us would ever after receive him into any Privateer Ship. We steered directly to the Coast of *Cuba*, and four Men putting him into the Shallop, carried him a-shore directly at the *Cape de la Croix*; where he was left armed only with his Cutlass, and without any other Provisions than those he had in his Stomach.

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The *Spaniards*, far from suspecting the Reason why we used our Companion thus, interceded strongly for him. They pressed us in vain to inform them what he had done. They were not intrusted till they came within sight of the Port, when *Montauban* himself told it in confidence to the Captain at their parting; not having thought proper to tell it him before, lest it should give him some Disgust. The *Spaniards*, to whom their Captain revealed this Secret, made us much more considerable Presents than what we could have expected from them; and were so satisfied with our Procedure to the traiterous Privateer, that they spread the Report of that Action through all the Islands with infinite Praises, as if an honest Man could deserve Applause for barely doing his Duty.

We continued to cruize upon these Seas for above two Months longer; we had during that time many leisure Moments, which we used to spend in our usual Diversions of Drinking and Gaming, and sometimes in hearing *Montau-*

ban relate what he knew of the Privateering History of the late War. The Relations he gave us of it enchanted us; amongst the rest, we took a particular Pleasure in the Detail of the Fights he had been in, in which he had performed Prodigies of Valour. Gentlemen, said he to us one Day, whilst I was at the Head of a Set of brave Privateers like you, I can assure you there did not pass a Year in which I did not see almost my whole Company renewed. This must not surprize you; for you may lay two to one, that a Privateer never compleats three Campaigns.

Therefore, my Friends, pursued he, I advise you by my Example to set yourselves Bounds, and to retire as soon as you have got any thing. When I recall to Mind all the Dangers to which I have been exposed, I look upon myself as a Man singular in my kind, to have been so fortunate as to preserve my Life till now. After what I have told you, you will blame me, perhaps, for making this new Enterprize with you; but *Monsieur de Choiseuil* has an absolute Power
over

over me : He intreated me to give him this Mark of my Consideration for him ; and I could not refuse him. It was not Avarice most certainly that made me quit the Pleasures and the Ease I enjoyed in my peaceable Retreat ; and it was still less with a Desire of rendering my Name more famous, that I came to confront once more the Dangers attending such Campaigns ; they are like Marriages, once is sufficient to run the risk. If you are so fortunate as to bury two Wives, you will certainly make a Widow of the third. I relate this Discourse of *Montauban's*, that the Reader may observe, that we have sometimes a Foreboding of those Misfortunes that are to happen to us.

We met not long after with two *English* Ships, one of four and twenty, the other of six and thirty Guns. It was Rashness, or rather Madness, to pretend to attack them. Nevertheless an Attack was unanimously resolved upon, nothing seeming to us able to resist the Experience and Courage of our Chief ; who on his Side forgetting the reasonable

things he had told us, was the Person who testified the most Impatience to come to Action. The *English* saw us bear up to them without any Concern, and made us find that they knew very well how to deal with the Privateers. We perceived it by their Working, and the Care they took to make it almost impossible to board them, by putting out a Boom*, with which they were provided. Added to this, that their Ships understood each other as well as if the same Captain had commanded them: When we made our Efforts to board one, the other gave us a Volley of all her Artillery. Their Fire-Arms harraß'd us extremely, and were so superior to ours, that they had three hundred Musket-shot against our fifty.

Our Chief seeing plainly then that we had acted like Fools in engaging ourselves in this Combat, redoubled his
Courage

* These are long Pieces of Wood, as Ends of Masts for Example, laid across upon the Decks of Ships, which advancing considerably out on each Side, prevent any other Vessel from approaching them.

Courage to surmount all those Obstacles which prevented our Victory. He foam'd with Rage, and finding he was come at last to his third Wife, he would have let us all perish, if happily for us he had not been killed with a Cannon Bullet, after a desperate Fight of half an Hour. I was immediately chose Captain, not to continue an Engagement so disagreeable to us, but to save the rest of our People, who were reduced to fifty Men, most of them being wounded and unable to defend themselves.

In this Manner the Dignity of Captain was conferred upon me for the first Time, with exprefs Conditions that my first Order should be to make a Retreat; and that my Authority should extend no farther than to reconduct to *Petit Goave* our shattered Vessel, with five and twenty maimed, and the same Number of Men who had escaped, or were only slightly wounded.

When the Captain of a Privateer has been killed, the Vessel is put into Mourning in the following Manner: The Flag
and

and Pendant are brought half way down the Mast, and by that means drag along the Sea; the Vessel is stripp'd of her Streamers, and her Colours; the Working her along is performed in deep Silence and very slowly, and every half Hour a Cannon is let off. This informed Monsieur de Choiseuil of the Death of the unfortunate *Montauban*, before we arrived in the Port. The Governor, I must do him that Justice, wept excessively for the Loss of that brave Man: He could not forgive himself, for having drawn him from his Solitude to make this unhappy Campaign. He was touched also with our Misfortunes.

I think I ought not here to forget to speak of a Custom established amongst the Privateers. When they have lost their Captain in a Fight, they sell the Vessel, and all it contains, even to the Arms, for the Subsistence and Cure of the Wounded, and to pay what is assigned to every one for his Wounds. This is the Regulation upon that Head: Two thousand *Livres* are given to a Privateer

vateer for the Loss of an Arm, a Leg, an Eye, an Ear, a Nose, a Thumb, or even a little Finger ; in short, for any Member ; and if any one remains disabled by his Wounds, he has a Right to be received on board the first Privateer's Vessel that appears ; where, though he is of no Use, he has an equal Share with the rest.

The End of the FIRST BOOK.



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the Government of the Republic of
France for the sake of an Army, a Leg-
ation, an Army, a French, a French, or
even a little French; in short, for any
Member; and in any one member of
the Republic, he has a Right
to be received on board the ship, to
visit a Vessel that is in port; where,
though he is of no use, he has a right
to share with the rest.

THE END OF THE FIRST BOOK

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THE
ADVENTURES
OF THE
Chevalier de Beauchene.

BOOK II.

The Chevalier de Beauchene refuses to accept of the Post of Captain. He goes again to Sea with seventy-five Privateers. They meet with four English Vessels, who use them very roughly. The Chevalier goes to St. Domingo, to join some French Privateers there. The gallant Adventure of a Rocheller, one of his Companions. They go to cruize upon the Coast of the Carraccas, and with a Vessel of eight Guns,

Guns, take two English Ships, one of four and twenty, and the other of six and thirty Guns. They return to St. Domingo, where they share their Prizes, and fall into all manner of Debauchery. They put to Sea again. The History of a Philosophical Privateer. They attack a Ship of six and forty Guns and three hundred Men, and take it after a hot Resistance. But they have no sooner gained that Prize than she is taken from them by an English Man of War, of fifty Guns, and a Frigate of six and thirty, who make them Prisoners. They are first sent to Jamaica, and from thence to the Prisons of Kingsale in Ireland. A Detail of the Miseries they are made to suffer. They all die except the Chevalier, who finds means to escape. He goes to Cork, where he has the Happiness to find a Widow, who out of Generosity does him Service, and who engages an English Captain to set him a-shore in Hispaniola, from whence he goes to Petit Goave. There Monsieur de Choiseuil gives him a Vessel and ninety Men, with which he has the Boldness to go
and

the Chevalier de Beauchene. 113

and cruize in Sight of the Ports of Jamaica, to revenge himself upon the first English he can take, for the Cruelties exercised in Ireland upon himself and his Companions. He takes an English Ship, and treats the Crew most barbarously. He has a Dispute with the Governor and Citizens of the Town of Canary. He attacks another English Ship, in which he finds two French Prisoners, one of whom is his Acquaintance.



ONSIEUR *de Choiseuil*, after having testified his Regret for *Montauban*, offered us another Vessel, named the *St. Rose*, which had been taken from the *Spaniards* by the *Dutch*, and lately retaken from them by the *French*. We accepted the Offer; but the Company was to be formed, which took up between two and three Months. At the Expiration of that Time we found ourselves seventy-five brave Fellows, and we immediately set sail.

They

They all exhorted me to keep the Place of Captain, which had been given me after the Death of *Montauban*. I refused it, not finding that I had Experience enough to acquit myself well of such a Post, and upon my Refusal they chose a *Canadian* of *Quebec*, called *Mignet*, a good Seaman, and equally prudent and courageous.

When we were over-against the East Part of the Island of *Cuba*, of which we had begun to discover the Coasts, we perceived a Brigantine of fourteen Guns; tho' the Sea was rough we gave him Chace a considerable Time. If it was dangerous for them not to draw in their Sails, it was no less so to wait for us, therefore they crowded all the Sail they could, yet notwithstanding we drew nearer them, and were almost within Cannon-shot of them, when a most dreadful Gust of Wind overset them before our Eyes. All their Company perished excepting three Persons, who chose rather to fall into our Hands than into those of Death.

We

We were so provoked to see our Prey thus ravished from us, that we set forth our Fate with all the Energy of Privateers, and in the most expressive Terms; I believe, in our Ill-humour, we should have suffered these three Wretches to sink without condescending to succour them, if we had not had a Curiosity to know the Value of what we had lost. We saved them then with that Intention, and it may be guessed how great was our Despair, when they told us that their Captain was the famous *Charles Gandi*, a Mulattoe of *Jamaica*, who had been trading upon the Coasts of the *Carraccas*, and was returning with a hundred thousand *Piaf-tres*, upon the Account of a rich Merchant. The Loss of this brave Captain was of more Consequence to the *English* than that of the Money, tho' the Sum was so large.

After this, we passed three or four Months without meeting any thing but a large Fishing Bark, which we took; we asked the Master for News of *Paneston*, a Town in *Jamaica*. He told us he knew none, tho' he made several Voyages

Voyages there in a Year; He was a Man between forty and fifty, who, with three of his Sons, and two Servants, carried dry'd Fish thither. We were tired of waiting so long in vain, for an Opportunity of taking some good Prize, and it came into our Captain's Thoughts to make use of these People, to know if there was any thing to be done; he detained the three Sons of the Fisherman, and giving him six of our stoutest Boys, he obliged him to go to *Paneston*, assuring him that the Life of his Children depended upon his Behaviour; that he need only load himself with dried Fish, enter into the Port as usual, and inform himself privately whether any Vessel was going out, or whether any was expected in very soon. You need only, added *Minet*, execute punctually what I have told you, and when you come to give me an Account of your Commission I will deliver up your Sons. But take Care what you do; if you attempt the least Treason, we will hang them before your Eyes at our Yard-Arm.

The Fisherman proved a good Father, he performed what was required of him
to

to Perfection ; but indeed, besides the Menace that was made him, two of our Boys, armed with Poniards and Pistols, had secret Orders to observe him closely, and kill him, if he made the least suspicious Step. They brought us Word, that five *English* Ships, the largest of five and twenty Guns, and the others of half as many, were preparing to set sail for *New-England*, and that they would leave the Port speedily ; we waited for them in effect only eight Days ; on the ninth we perceived them, and we remarked there was one who was a slow Sailor, and very distant from the others.

Our Captain immediately proposed to us to attack that, saying, that when we had made ourselves Masters of it, we might make use of it against the other four that accompanied it : This was the most prudent Method, but we would not follow it ; we feared lest the four Vessels that were together should escape, whilst we pursued that which was alone ; besides, the first was nearest to us, and our Hands itched to come to Blows. The Captain in vain remonstrated to us, that that Ardour of Fighting,

ing, which generally is unaccompanied with Discretion amongst the Privateers, hinders them from weighing all Circumstances, and generally draws upon them all the Misfortunes they meet with. In a word, it was to no purpose for him to speak Reason to us, nobody was of his Opinion. At length, when he saw that we all required that he should conduct us to the four Vessels,—Gentlemen, said he to us, I will lead you on immediately, tho' it is pursuing your Courage more than your Prudence. You burn with Impatience to come to Action; you will see one from which I can't promise to bring you off with Safety.

Tho' the *English* were sensible that we designed to attack them, they continued their Route as calmly as if they had not perceived us, they did not seem to think of us, and yet they were taking proper Measures to make us repent of our Temerity. They knew that, according to our usual Custom, we should immediately attempt to board them; they prepared themselves for it, and when we were within Cannon-shot, their largest Frigate presented herself; we
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immediately grappled with her, and leaped hastily upon her Deck, which was exactly what they desired ; and we found their Company so strongly retrenched between their Decks, that it was impossible for us to force them.

Besides this, they had taken the Precaution to saw off the Bar of the Helm, so that not being able to steer the Ship, we remained there above half an Hour, exposed to all their Musket-shot, some of us employed in endeavouring to break open with Hatchets the Retrenchments they had made, and others busied in returning, by a very inferior Fire, that which was made upon us from the three other Vessels, which passing continually by us, gave us Broadfides loaded with broken Bullets and old Iron, which killed us as many Men as they could have wished. We were constrained to return on board our own Vessel again, to cut our Grappling-Irons, and to retire ; we were in so bad a Condition, that there were not fifteen of us capable of working the Ship. The Privateers are People so dreadful to the Merchant-Ships, that as much disabled as we were, yet we kept
our

our Enemies in Awe ; they seemed still to fear lest we should have a Mind to return to the Attack, and returned Thanks to Heaven to find themselves free from us ; tho' if they had pursued us, and but one of their Ships had harrassed us for a quarter of an Hour, we must have been obliged to yield at Discretion.

This second Disgrace brought us so low, that Monsieur *de Choiseuil* lost all Hopes of ever recovering it. The Vessel was again sold for the Benefit of the Wounded, in which Number I had the good Fortune not to be included. Our continued Misfortunes gave no Person any Desire to associate with us, and we were forced to remain idle, and wait till some Ship of the Privateers came to anchor at *Petit Goave*. This was a melancholy Incident to a Man so impatient as I was ; I was, nevertheless, resolved to do as well as my Companions, when several *French* Privateers, who were at *St. Domingo*, wrote to me, that if I was willing to come to them, they would procure me a Vessel that carried eight Guns, of which the Governor of the

the Place, an affable and a generous *Spaniard*, had promised to make them a Present, when he found they were a sufficient Number to put to Sea. I could not have received a more agreeable Piece of News; I imparted it to my Comrades, but there were but four who would follow me, tho' there were eighteen or twenty capable of the Service.

The Reasons they gave to the contrary were, that all the *French* who had trusted in this manner to the *Spaniards*, had sooner or later always repented it. We made a Jest of their Distrust, and they of our Security; we preached to one another, and our Discourses were as fruitless as the Sermons that are preached at Court against Flattery and Dissimulation. I took my Party then, the four Privateers who were in the same Disposition with myself, and we all five prepared for our Departure across the Country.

The Evening before our Departure we informed our Host of it, that he might instruct us in the Route we should

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take, and that at the same Time he might take our Notes for what we owed him; for in that Place every Privateer has Credit in those Times: They lent him freely whatever he desired, and those Debts were paid preferably to every thing else upon the first Prize that was made, even if the Debtor happened to be kill'd. A young Boarder in our *Auberge* asked us in the Evening, if it would be agreeable to us for him to join Company with us, together with a Friend of his, who was just arrived from a large and rich Habitation, which his Parents had at some Leagues Distance from thence. We both design, added he, to repair to the *Spanish-Town*, and, to perform this Journey without any Hazard, we address ourselves to such brave Men as you are, and desire you to suffer us to be in your Company.

Besides that, he captivated our Favour by his Compliment, he offered to defray our Charges upon the Route, and even to take Guides at his own Charge and Expence. This was a certain Method of obtaining our Consent, and we could not refuse it him. As he hinted to

to us that he and his Friend wished to depart privately, and that we ourselves had the same Intention, to elude the Instances that Monsieur *de Cboiseuil* might have made to detain us, we agreed with the young Man, that we would depart the Night following, after Supper.

Our Host told us in private, that he did not know his Boarder, but that his Friend was a *Creolian*, the Son of a rich Family, and had been brought up at *Paris*, from whence he had not been returned above two Months; that he was upon the Point of marrying a young Lady with a very great Fortune, and that yet this young Man seemed to express more Aversion than Love for her. We saw the *Creolian* arrive the next Day; he was mounted upon a good Horse, and had behind him a large Valise, full of all the Money and Jewels he could carry off from his Friends; he had some Trouble to provide another Horse for his Friend, which retarded our Departure till Midnight.

We were scarce out of the *Auberge* before we found ourselves in a new Embarras: The Boarder, the *Creolian's* Friend, was a very indifferent Horseman; he stagger'd upon his Saddle every Step he went, in such a manner that one of us was obliged to mount upon his Horse behind and hold him: This, joined to his soft and effeminate Look, made us from that Time suspect what we discovered some few Days after. Not to kill his Horse, which was not a very strong one, we chose out the lightest young Fellow amongst us to do this agreeable Service, which carried its Recompence along with it. This was a little, thin, alert *Racheller*, whom we had named * *Touten Muscles*, from his being very strong, tho' he was not five Feet high. He had a cunning artful Mind; he penetrated the Mystery from the first, and, without making us Partners in his Discovery, he endeavoured to make use of it. The Heat obliged us to travel more in the Night than in the Day; this favoured the Enterprize of our Comrade; the Rogue was disappearing every now and then, as if he had

* *All Muscles.*

had lost his Way, and found us again in a quarter of an Hour. These little Absences were remarked, and the Friend of the *Creolian* imagined to be a Woman in Disguise. But we had no longer any room to doubt it, when one Morning we found that she had departed over Night with the *Rockeller*, the two Horses, and the Valise, which she took care to inform us of by a Billet that she left for her Lover, and which contained these Words :

“ I have reflected, Monsieur, that,
“ being a Minor, you could not with
“ Conscience marry me contrary to the
“ Inclination of your Parents. I suppose
“ also, you are tired of travelling
“ with me by this Time, therefore
“ to do you a Pleasure I take another
“ Guide. I ought to do this if
“ it were only to restore you to your
“ Family, who are now lamenting
“ your Loss, and to the Person who is
“ destined for your Bride. Adieu,
“ Monsieur, never think of looking
“ after me, I have lost my Way now
“ in earnest.”

This Billet occasioned great Laughter. Some said, that this fair *Anti-Lucretia* had found out, that *Monfieur Touten Muscles* was more suitable for her Purpose than the *Creolian*. It was the *Rocheller* doubtless, said another, that exacted this Letter from her, that she might have all the Honour of the Action, making a Scruple of taking to his own Account this generous Care of obliging a Family he was unacquainted with. In fine, every one had something to say upon the Occasion. However, our Laughter soon gave Place to Sentiments of Compassion, which we could not avoid discovering.

The young Man to whom this Billet was addressed, as soon as he read it, became motionless with Astonishment; then all of a sudden, rousing from that Situation into Fury, he burst out into a Fit of Despair, that touched us; he would have killed himself with his own Hands, if we had not prevented him; he told us afterwards, that he was resolved to follow us on Foot, that he might rejoin this unfaithful Wretch, and load her with Reproaches. After that,
yield-

yielding to the Foible he had for this Creature, he melted into Tears, and sobbed with such excessive Violence, that tho' we were Privateers, yet he moved us to Compassion.

This Tragi-comic Scene passed in a Habitation where we had stopped. We employed a whole Day there in consoling him, and in exhorting him to return to his Parents. By degrees we soften'd his Grief, and he yielded insensibly to the Force of our Reasons: We asked him in what Part of the World he had got Acquaintance with this ungrateful Woman, who did not deserve his Tears. To satisfy our Curiosity he told us, not without many Sighs, that she was of *Paris*; that he had loved the perfidious Wretch from the first Moment he had seen her there, where she was kept by a *Maltotier**; that he had attach'd himself to her, and that, after having spent immense Sums, to allure her from her Man of Business, he had succeeded in it. It cost me as much, said he, to determine her to follow me into this Country; and, to finish my History, I was

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now

* A Farmer of the Taxes.

now going with this Inconstant to the *Spanish Town*, only that I might marry her, in spite of my Parents, who destine me for another Person.

When we saw the *Creolian* begin to be disposed to return home, we joined all the Money we four had amongst us, to what he had left in his Pocket, in order to hire two Guides, one to conduct him by small Days Journeys, and the other to go before, and advertise his Family to send a Horse to meet him. In doing this generous Action, we never considered, that it was cutting off our own Heads to save another Man's; as in effect, for want of Money, we were obliged to feed like the antient Hermits, upon the Fruits of the Desert for the rest of our Journey.

As we drew near *St. Domingo* we saw several of the *French Privateers*, who came to meet us, and who appeared very well pleased at our Arrival. The *Rockbeller* was amongst them; as soon as he could speak to us in private, he confessed to us all that we knew before, without informing us what was become of

of his *Parisian* Nymph, desiring us to keep the Secret, which we did, tho' he did not deserve it. He had indeed Reason to fear his Adventure's being known; they might have easily forgiven him the Rape of this *Helen*; but the Valise carried off had an Air of Robbery, that would have been prejudicial to his Reputation.

The Governor of *St. Domingo*, who expected us with Impatience, honoured us with a very gracious Reception, and me in particular; he gave me twenty brave *Spaniards* to command, together with sixty *French* Men, whom he had assembled. To return the Esteem that he testified for me, I used so much Diligence that I made ready and set Sail in less than a Fortnight. I return now to our *Rockeller*: I was very much surprized to see his *Parisian* on board with him, whom he made to pass for a young Brother of his, that he was willing, he said, should learn his Trade betimes.

The poor Privateer was taken in as well as the *Creolian*; he became distract-

edly in Love with this Creature, whom he was teaching the whole Day to fence and use a Musket, tho' we all advised him in private to leave her in Quality of Surgeon's Boy or Apprentice. This Advice was not to his Taste, for he was so monstrously jealous of her, that he would have her always in his Sight; he suffered miserably when he saw her speak to any body, and especially to those who, like us, were in his Confidence in spite of himself; his Jealousy made him pass many uneasy Moments. One Day whilst he was at Play, having perceived that his young Brother was gone out of Sight, he could not conceal his Disorder, and from that Time, tho' it was his darling Pleasure, he never gam'd again; but indeed there happened to us, in about a Week afterwards, an Adventure which cured him radically of the Passion he had for Play, as well as of his Jealousy.

In cruizing upon the Coasts of the *Caraccas* we met with a Vessel of four and twenty Guns, which we looked upon immediately as a Treasure that was our own, as it could not possibly escape
for

for the Calm that then reign'd upon the Sea. We soon joined it by the Assistance of our Oars, and having grappled with it, we obliged them to strike in less than a quarter of an Hour, with the Loss of six only of our Men, in which Number was the unfortunate *Touten Muscles*, by his own Fault. At the Boarding he leaped with us upon the Deck of the *English* Ship; his Mistress, hurried along by the Crowd, found herself obliged to do the same, and not being used to such an Escalade, she dropped into the Sea. The Lover seeing her drowning, was hastening to her Assistance, but one of our Men stopped him, threatening to shoot him through the Head if he drew back *; the *Rocheller*, drove on by the Excess of his Passion, despised the Menace, and received that Instant a Musket-shot in his Head. Thus perished this unhappy Wretch, for having abandoned himself to a Passion that is Folly in all Men, but Madness in a Privateer.

We

* In an Action the least Boy has a Right to shoot any Privateer that draws back one Step.

We were very well satisfied with our Enterprize; I put twenty of my People on board the *English* Vessel, and the greatest Part of the Prisoners into the Hold of my own. We were conveying our Capture as in Triumph, when we discovered another Vessel, which making its Advantage of a small Gale of Wind which then arose, bore down upon us with crowded Sails. Our Prisoners had told us that they were in Company with another Ship of six and thirty Guns, which they had been separated from about two Days before by hazy Weather. I did not doubt but this Vessel was that which they had spoke of; and what agreed with my Conjecture was, that it seemed to me as if this Vessel strove to rejoin the other. I immediately made them bring too all the Sails, because their Figure, which was particular, would soon have made us known. I set up also an *English* Flag, and lest our Prisoners should revolt during the Combat, we laid them all in Irons. Besides all this, I made my Route slowly towards *Jamaica*, and the *English*, deceived by these Appearances,

ances, came within Cannon-shot without finding out their Mistake.

Then spreading at once all our Sails, and hoisting the Colours of *France* upon both our Vessels, we came so hastily upon theirs, that we grappled with them, and boarded them before they knew whom they had to deal with; but in return, as soon as they perceived it, they made incredible Efforts to repulse us. They were strong in Men, by consequence they made a dreadful Slaughter amongst us. Nay, they would perhaps have made us retire in spite of all our Courage, if our Companions, who were upon the Prize Vessel, had not also thrown out their Grappling-Irons, and leaped upon the Quarter-Deck, after having given them three or four Broad-sides with their Cannon. The *English*, attacked on both Sides, could not hold out much longer, and were obliged to yield, tho' they were still above three to one.

We had however, upon this Occasion, about five and twenty Men killed and wounded. When we arrived at
St.

St. Domingo, we went to give an Account of our Campaign to the Governor, who was extremely surprized to hear what we had done. He could not conceive how fifty Men could be capable of taking two hundred, and of carrying off, with a Vessel of eight Guns, one of four and twenty, and another of thirty-six. As to the Profit which arose to us from these two Prizes, it was so considerable, that, exclusive of what was of a Nature to be divided amongst us, as is customary, I remember that the Admiralty, for their Dues upon the rest, had near fifty thousand Crowns.

It will be imagined, doubtless, that after two such lucky Hits, fifty Privateers will be turned into fifty creditable Citizens, and live easy and happy for the rest of their Days. Excuse me, these are not their Maxims: We passed six or seven Months in *St. Domingo*, doing what fifty young *Musquetaires* would do amongst the Citizens of a Town surrendered at Discretion. Gaming, Balls, Treats, Quarrels, Riots, these were our whole Business. When a *Spaniard* pretended to take it ill that we gave a Serenade to
his

his Wife, and had not the Civility to open the Door to us, we went in at the Windows. There was every Day some Father, or some Husband, bringing his Complaints to the Governor. On the other Side, those who had neither Wives nor handsome Daughters, and who found their Account in our Dissipations, interested themselves for us, and spoke in our Favour; they did not trouble themselves about what Ravages we made in the Night, provided that they could sell us in the Day, for a Piastre, what was not worth a Shilling.

Our Liberties, however, were carried so far, that the Governor, after having in vain desired us to be more reasonable, found himself obliged to forbid our bearing Arms within the Town; neither would he have gone so far, but for an Insult committed by a Privateer upon one of his domestick Officers, who had a Nose of an excessive Length. Thy Nose shocks me, said the Privateer to him as he met him in the Street, I am resolved to pare off the Superfluities of it with my Cutlafs. Allons, my Friend, draw your Sword. The Officer, who
was

was a *Spaniard*, defended his Nose like a Man of Courage; but not being willing to be reduced to preserving it again in the same Manner, he complained of it to his Master, who caused an Order to be published, by which the Privateers were forbid bearing any Weapons in *St. Domingo*.

We obey'd, and appeared several times before the Governor unarm'd, and, like a good forgiving Master, he thanked us at first for the Respect we had for his Orders; but when he heard that we had our Swords carried after us by our Men, as the *Canadians* of *Monfieur de Ibergville's* Company had done in the same Case at *Rockelle*, he was irritated extremely at us. He again commanded that no Privateer should bear Arms within the Town; and added, that if any one caused them to be carried after him, he should be punished for it by an Imprisonment of six Months; so that he put it out of our Power to fight in the Town, unless it was at Boxing.

This just Severity of the Governor produced two different Effects; the Citizens

zens began not to fear us so much, and the Women to love us more : Our Vessel became the Scene of gallant Feasts ; and those Women whom we could not see before but by taking their Apartments by Assault, in their Turn, now leaped out of the Windows to us, rather than they would be wanting in the Ceremonial of Politeness, and not repay our Visits. As for the *Spaniards*, being irritated that, without being desired, we introduced the *French* Liberty and Politeness with so much Success amongst their Wives, they disembarassed themselves in the *Spanish* Manner of all those among us that fell into their Hands in the Night. We lost in this genteel Manner four or five of our most gallant Privateers, and those who were reckoned the *Petit Maitres* of our Troop.

As we knew the Intrigues that had been so fatal to them, we resolved to revenge their Deaths. We could not do this in the Town without an open Rebellion, and we were too small a Number to dare to rebel. We judged therefore, that we must endeavour to draw a-board those whom we suspected
of

of having assassinated our Companions. The better to deceive these Assassins, we ceased to complain of the Misfortune of our Brethren, and affected to appear satisfied. We even said openly, that those among us who made a Disorder in the Town, contrary to the Order of the Governor, made themselves deserving of any Accident that happened to them. Upon these Discourses the Citizens thought us more fearful and less terrible than we were. They imagined, that finding ourselves reduced to the Number of five and thirty *French*, we thought it more proper to speak smoothly than to rhodomontade. They were in another Error also: They thought the *Spanish* Privateers had no good Understanding with us; and yet they were the Men who delivered up to us four of the Husbands whom we looked upon Privateericides; and this was the Stratagem which they made use of to bring them to us a-board an *English* Vessel that we had taken; they proposed to them to conduct them thither towards Night, telling them that we should sell them very cheap a considerable Parcel of Jewels, which we designed

signed to dispose of secretly in order to defraud the Admiralty.

These honest Gntlemen, who desired no better than to join with us in this clandestine Commerce, gave easily into the Snare ; and when we had them in our Power, we put on a magisterial Air, and interrogated them in Form upon the Murders committed in their Quarters, and which were imputed to them. It was in vain that they protested their Innocence ; they had to do with Judges who would condemn them before they were heard. We had nothing to debate upon but the Punishment that we should make them suffer, when perceiving amongst them a little obstinate Man who had a very handsome Wife, whom he had hitherto rendered always inaccessible to us : Messieurs, said I to my Companions, if these other three *Padrones* have Wives as pretty as this has, I am of Opinion that we should give them their Lives, provided they send for them to us immediately ; and I propose that they should meditate upon their Sins in the
Bottom

Bottom of the Hold, whilst we sup
with their Ladies.

So pleasant an Idea of Vengeance made the whole Company laugh, and saved the *Spaniards*, who but for this would infallibly have gone. We gave over then all Thoughts of Bloodshed. We reasoned only upon the Sentence that I had pronounced, and every one having voted, it was resolved, that to avoid Inconveniencies we would go ourselves, provided with good Procurations under the Hands of the Husbands, and sup with their Wives in private to avoid all Scandal. We took an ill-natured Pleasure in seeing the different Grimaces that these four poor Wretches made when they signed their Procurations. Those who were the most jealous, rejoiced us by the mortal Fears that were painted upon their Countenances. All this however was no more than a Jest: We went to Supper at our Inns, bounding our Vengeance only by detaining the Husbands all Night in the Ship, and making them imagine that their Procurations had not been useless. We had made Acquaintance with so many other Ladies,

Ladies, that it is no wonder we had not the Curiosity to go after these; who, when they saw their Husbands again, whom we took care to send them the next Day, I believe, had no little Trouble to perswade them that they had received no Damage but this Fright.

Whilst we lead this delightful Life at *St. Domingo*, spending our Treasure with as much Haste as we had gained it, there arrived from *Petit Gouve* a Reinforcement of twelve *French Privateers*, who forced us from the Arms of Sloth and Voluptuousness. We abandoned our Pleasure abruptly to make ready for the Sea, and we set sail with as much Ardour as if we were certain that we were departing only to return with new Conquests. Iniquity and Vice stupify the Mind. We did not consider, that having spent so much Time in Debauchery, we were now perhaps running eagerly to meet those Chastisements that Divine Justice had prepared for us.

Amongst the Privateers who came to us from *Petit Gouve*, there was one of a Character very new in that Profession.

feſſion. He was a perfect Philoſopher, a meditating *Malebranchiſt*, who had never ſeen a drawn Sword, and knew nothing of Gunpowder but by the Experiments he had made upon the Elatiſcity of the Air that it contained. What will appear moſt ſingular is, that we were wonderfully pleaſed with him, tho' he could neither fight, nor game, nor ſwear, nor drink. We all liſtened to him with Pleaſure, eſpecially when he talked Phyſicks, and explained to us the Cauſe of Eclipſes, of the Winds, of the Flux and Reflux of the Sea, and of all the ſurprizing Phœnomena of Nature; which he did, confining himſelf as much as poſſible to common plain Expreſſions, ſuitable to the Capacity of his Audience.

His Converſation delighted us. I ſhall never forget the Diſcourſe he made the firſt time he related to us by what Chance he was thrown among us. He could not think of it without making Exclamations that diverted us. I ſeem to have been born, ſaid he to us, to ſhew the World the Caprices of Fate. After having been from my Infancy till
this

this Time, as it were buried in the Study of Philosophy, behold me now reduced to wander on the Sea, not as a curious Naturalist, but in the Quality of a Privateer : What a strange Metamorphosis ! Neither is this any more than the common Caprice of my Stars, which I cannot myself comprehend how I could give way to. He stopp'd here, and seemed unwilling to proceed any farther. We desired him to explain himself more clearly, and our Intreaties were the more earnest, as the Privateers who had brought him from *Petit Goave*, and who knew his History, laughed immoderately at his Silence ; which made us imagine that what he concealed deserved our Attention. Our Prayers were not in vain, he began his Speech again in these Terms :

You see, Gentlemen, that I don't willingly run on in superfluous Discourse, and that I am possess'd of the Gift of Taciturnity. But you do not know me yet. 'Tis pity that you cannot contrive a Closet here, at a distance from the Noise and continual Movement there is in your Vessel, you would
see

See me shut myself up there for five or six Days together, without coming out of it; nay, without so much as speaking a Word to those who brought me my Provisions. Such is my Taste, in this Manner I have always lived, and at the same time have always been reckoned the most unfociable of Mortals, a Hater of Mankind, and still more of Womankind. Yet, Gentlemen, can you believe it, I have banished myself into this new World, only to avoid one whom I married in one of those unfortunate Moments when the Philosopher yielding basely to the Animal, notwithstanding his Philosophy, let himself be captivated under the Yoke of Hymen.

In a City of *France*, not very distant from *Paris*, I took to Wife a young Person extremely amiable, but at the same time extremely gay. I was not four Days before I perceived that I had played the Fool, and that I had embraced a Condition very unsuitable to me. My Wife, through an Excess of Affiduity and Complaisance, became my Tormentor. She followed me without ceasing, loaded me with Caresses, and did not leave
me

me to myself a Moment. Was I reading in my Closet, she would come in search of me Singing and Dancing ; tear the Book out of my Hands, and tell me with a Laugh that she was worth all the Volumes in my Library ; so that to read at liberty, I was obliged to go out of the Town, and to retire to a Friend. In fine, she loved Society as much as I did Study and Retirement. From the Moment it was Day with *Madam*, the House was an Assembly till it was Night. It might have been bearable however, if not pretending to take it ill that my Wife lived in this Manner, I had on my Side had the liberty to live after my own Fancy ; but No, she resolved that I should follow her's ; she would reform me, she said, polish me, and above all hinder my Reading from doing me harm. How you are altered ! sometimes she would cry out ; 'tis this Reading that destroys you ; I must burn all these odious Books that ruin you entirely.

It was in vain for me to be enraged at myself, and curse my Marriage, my giddy Spouse obliged me out of Compliance

plaisance to do every thing that she liked. However, after some Months she ceased to torment me, and despairing of being able to alter a hardened Philosopher, she let me read as much as I pleased, without disturbing herself any further to make me alter my Conduct, and without ever thinking to reform her own. On the contrary, she redoubled her Expences, and made so prodigious a Diminution of my Fortune in Treats, Dress, Furniture, and publick Places, that in less than two Years she ruined me entirely. I had no other Resource but a Plantation, which my Father had left at his Death, and which was inhabited by a Man who had some Share in it, and who always deferring to make up his Accounts with me, had not yet sent me any Remittances to *Europe*.

When I perceived then, about five or six Months since, that I had not enough left to pay a Quarter of what my Wife owed to the Baker, the Butcher, the Cook, the Laundress, &c. I departed quietly without bidding her Adieu, to spare myself the Trouble of hearing the Musick she would have made

made upon that Occasion ; I embarked for *St. Domingo*, in hopes that I should live there easily and happily, since I should be at a Distance from my Wife. But upon my Arrival, I found that the Plantation upon which I depended had been sold, and that the Villain of a Seller was no longer in the Country. This News struck me so excessively, that I was very near repenting that I had left my Wife. This is expressing it sufficiently. Nothing was then talked of at *Petit Gaeve*, but the immense Riches that the *French* had gained who were at the *Spanish* Town. I lodged with several of these Gentlemen who are listening to me, I had related my Misfortunes to them ; they pitied me, and seeing I did not know what to turn myself to, they proposed to me to follow them. I accepted the Proposition ; and I should applaud myself for it, if I did not fear that I shall appear a Brother unworthy of you. For, in fine, I have no very warlike Heart ; I am sensible of it. I cannot hear a Fuzil shot off without trembling.

This new Privateer if we may give him that Name, because he was amongst us, here finished his History. I endeavoured to give him Courage, and told him that he would be much sooner used to the Ways of the Privateers, than he had been to those of his Wife; and that when he had been two or three Times at the Stern of a large Ship, exposed to the Whizzing of Cannon Bullets out of their Chace Guns, he would not be afraid of a Musket-shot: However, I added, that if he chose it he might keep in the Steerage at first, and see us fight without entering into the Party, till he was used to Musquetades and Cannon-shot.

We were much more impatient than he was to meet some Vessel which might give us an Opportunity of shewing him in what Manner we designed to inure him to stand Fire. This did not happen however till near two Months after. One Morning, as we doubled the little Island of *Tortoises*, there presented itself before us an *English* Vessel, to which we made up without Hesitation. The Captain who commanded it would have
thought

thought himself dishonoured by endeavouring to avoid us. In effect, he saw only a small Vessel of eight Guns, which he did not think would be rash enough to attack one of six and forty Cannon and three hundred Men. He did not know the Privateers. The Master and his Mate who knew what kind of People we were, had a very hot Dispute with him upon this Occasion, as they told us themselves after the Action. The Master remarking that we drew still nearer to them, advised him to prepare for an Engagement. Don't trouble yourself about it, replied the Captain, can you be afraid of a Sloop that I could hoist up whole upon the Deck? It may be a Sloop if you please, replied the Master something affronted; but this Sloop contains perhaps a hundred Men, whom you will see leap upon your Deck to spare you the Trouble of hoisting them there; and if you don't take care, they may throw you and all your Crew overboard, as numerous as you are.

After a long Debate, the wise Prudence of the Master got the better of the too great Confidence of the Captain.

They prepared themselves a good Reinforcement; after which they were so complaisant as to wait for us, fully resolved to prevent us from boarding them, or at least to make all the Efforts they were capable of; the Sea was very rough, and the first Broadfides of their Cannon did us no other Harm than frightening the Philosopher; but soon after we were almost entirely stripped of our Sails and Tackling; so that if we had not seized the Opportunity that a Gust of Wind gave us, of fastening our Grappling-Irons upon their Stern, we should have been utterly disabled. Their Cannon then became all useless to them, except their two Chace-Guns, and even those they could make no great Use of, as we fired incessantly into their Portholes. We mounted at length upon their Deck, not without much Difficulty, because of the rolling of the Waves, and through so dreadful a Fire of Musquetry, that I lost at least a third of my People; we did not begin to breathe again till we came to Action with our Sabres.

During

During the Time that we fought, they with their Swords and Spontons, and we with our Cutlasses, Chance brought the Captain and me, without knowing each other, to combat together. We fixed upon each other; I frankly confess that I never met with so staunch a Gamester. Fatigued with his parrying all my Strokes, I began to faint, and gave him those that were less severe, and I found that I was sinking under his, when in a Moment he had his Thigh broke with a Pistol-shot. Not being able to support himself, he measured the Earth, or rather the Deck, with his Body, and his Fall the instant after was followed by mine; so much was I weaken'd by the Gun-shots I had received, and by the Blood that I had lost. In the mean time my Comrades pressed the *English* so closely, that they obliged them to retire between their Decks; where loadin^g them with Granades and Powder-Horns they constrained them to strike their Flag.

I was under the Hands of the Surgeon, who seeing me in a deep Swoon, employed all his Art to bring me to

myself again; and when he had succeeded in it, I asked him, if we were conquered, or Conquerors. He informed me, with a Joy that the Idea of a great Fortune inspired him with, that the *English* Vessel was our own; that she was returning from *Angola*; that her Ballast was Elephants Teeth or Ivory, and her Cargo five hundred and fifty Negroes, and a considerable Quantity of Gold Dust. We could not certainly have taken a richer Prize; my Comrades applauded their happy Fate, expressing their Raptures in the loudest Transports of Joy. But, alas! their Happiness was of short Duration: They had not Time so much as to take an Account of their Treasure. Fortune deprived them of it very abruptly; it was theirs only from Eight in the Morning till Eleven, and they paid dearly for that short Enjoyment.

In endeavouring to make the Quay *de St. Louis*, which was the nearest *French* Port to the Place where we were, we run directly in the Way of the *Jersey*, an *English* Man of War of fifty Guns, that was stationed upon the Coast.

This

This Vessel was cruizing upon the Coast of *Hispaniola*, with a Frigate of thirty-six Guns. Our Vessel was so shatter'd, that we had not so much as a Thought of endeavouring to escape them, and yet in our Despair we prepared to defend ourselves. I made myself be carried upon the Deck, where not being able to stand, nor even to sit upright, they laid me in such a manner, that having my Arms at Liberty, and my Head a little raised, I could still shoot off a Fuzil. The fifteen Men who conducted our Prize were at first tempted to set fire to the Powder and blow up the Ship; but remarking that we prepared for an Engagement, they did the same. I had only five and twenty Men left with me, including the Philosopher and the Wounded.

The *Jersey* first made up to us, and perceiving we were so weakly mann'd, attacked us without waiting for the Frigate. The fifteen Men who were on board the Prize Ship, being scarce sufficient to work her, appeared of no great Consequence to them. They fastened only upon our Vessel, and as they perceived that, being too weak to venture

to board them, out of Necessity we were forced to resolve upon keeping in our own Ship, they did not fail to regulate themselves thereupon. To dispatch us more speedily they loaded their Cannon with Case-shot, and provoked at us, that notwithstanding all these Precautions, we did not submit to strike; they run upon us every Moment with their heavy Ship, that broke us all to Pieces; and they would inevitably have sunk us, if we had not prudently determined to surrender.

The Captain found our Prize had been very roughly handled; and piqued at the Resistance we had dared to make with such unequal Forces, he treated us very harshly, both in Words and Actions. He laid us in Irons notwithstanding our Wounds, and left us the rest of the Day without suffering them to be dressed. By this Usage several of my Companions perished, whose Wounds would not else have proved mortal. Considering, however, the next Day that we were reduced to not above twenty Men, he permitted our Surgeon to take care

care of us, and three Days after took off our Irons.

It was only because we fell into her Way that the *Jersey* took us, she expected that Fortune designed her for greater Favours. They continued to cruize to the North of *Hispaniola*, dragging us after them as in Triumph. We earnestly wished that they might meet with some large *French* or *Spanish* Vessel, that we might revolt during the Engagement; our Prayers were not heard, and the *Jersey* made no other Capture; they remained, however, so long at Sea that their Water failed them, and they were obliged to send their Sloops ashore in the Night to procure more.

The Sight of our own Coasts gave us so furious a Desire of striving to shake off our Slavery, that it was impossible to resist it. One Evening, by the Moonlight, having perceived the Cape *Tiburon*, I undertook, with three other Privateers as enterprizing as myself, to save ourselves by swimming thither, tho' it was

was above a League distant from us. We should perhaps have succeeded in this dangerous Undertaking but for an Accident that happened to us. One of my three Companions, who was my greatest Intimate, and a very bad Swimmer, insisting upon being in the Party, was soon exhausted ; we were not above a Quarter of the Way when he called out to me ; I went to his Assistance, and he lean'd upon me for a few Moments to rest himself ; after which he began to swim again, but finding plainly that he should never have Strength to reach the Cape, he thought it more proper to put on his Chains again, than to break them foolishly by drowning himself ; he cry'd out then for Assistance, and discovered our Flight. They immediately shot off a Gun, to advertise the Sloops which were ashore to come and take us, which they did, not without regaling us with some Strokes of their Oars, by way of Prelude to the Sufferings we were to undergo. They put us again in Irons, as soon as we were on board the *Jersey*, and conveyed us in that Situation to *Jamaica*.

There

There we were delivered up to an old bald-headed Governor, who had the utmost Aversion to the *French*, tho' he was a *French* Man himself. He ordered us to be confined three Leagues from *Kingston*, in a Prison where they usually put their deserting Negroes. Eight Days after, he sent for us to exhort us to serve against the *French*, offering me in particular a larger Vessel than that I had lost: We all answered him without Hesitation, that we were born under the white Flag, and under that we would die. Irritated at our Answer, which appeared a Reproach to him for having turned his Coat, he gave Orders very charitably that our Provisions should be diminished, and that we should be reconducted to Prison through Ways full of Briars, and of a kind of Thorns, call'd *Aquettes*, whose sharp Points tore our naked Legs, and run into the Soles of our Feet. As soon as we arrived at the Prison we were obliged carefully to pull these out of one another's Feet; for every Point that was left in the Flesh would have formed a painful Abscess.

The

The Design this Renegado had formed, of constraining us to betray our Country as he had done, procured us so often the Honour of going in this manner, to pay our Court to him at *Kingston*, that our Wounds were no sooner healed but they were renewed. Besides this, the Soldiers who conducted us, glad to find themselves authorized to use us roughly, tormented us a thousand Ways, being perswaded it was a Pleasure to the Governor. During the Space of six Months that we remained in this horrible Place, five of our Comrades, in which Number was the Philosopher, sunk under the Miseries they made us suffer. These unfortunate Prisoners contributed themselves after their Deaths to augment our Pains, since they forced us to let them consume before our Eyes, without permitting us to cover them with Earth, and to give them at least that poor Interment.

The first, whose Death put an End to his Misery, was called the *Baron*. It was said that he was the Son of a Man of Distinction in *France*, who bore that Title ; I do not remember what Family

ly he was of, for I never heard his Name pronounced but once. This unhappy Companion of our Misfortunes had no sooner given the last Sigh, than he was stretched out upon four Poles, and exposed before the Door of the Prison. We had no Trouble to drive the Beasts and Birds of Prey from his Body, the poor Wretch having only a Skin stretched over his Bones, and the Heats of the Climate soon made a Skeleton of him.

The Cruelty of the Governor did not succeed according to his Expectation; he could never force us to imitate his Baseness. This obliged him to send us to *England*, with a Fleet of forty Merchant Ships which were going thither, under the Convoy of four Men of War. As to us, we were landed in *Ireland*, and put in the Prison of *Kingsale*, where we found Company enough of our own Nation, there being then fifteen hundred *French* Prisoners there.

By changing our Prison we only changed our Tormentors, with this Difference, that those of *Jamaica* used us
ill

ill to make us enter into their Service against *France*, but these of *Kingsale* did it only to entertain themselves, and satisfy their natural Barbarity. The Soldiers and the Goaler, named Master *Piper*, and who might with Justice have been called Master *Villain*, seemed to have nothing in View but to dispatch us silently and by degrees. Besides that, he apprehended a Reprizal; he dreaded lest the Queen should be informed of his Behaviour; for he was thoroughly sensible that that Princess, whose Nature was humane and generous, would have caused him to be punished exemplarily, if she had known to what a Degree he had carried on his Barbarity.

'Tis certain that their highest Recreation was to see us suffer. These Devils entertained themselves by making us fight for a Piece of Meat or Bread, as they would their Dogs. Those amongst us who bore our Sufferings in Silence, without being able to submit to give these inhuman Wretches a Diversion so worthy of their Brutality, were not the least to be pitied, since they let them perish with Hunger, as they were Cowards,

ards, they said, that did not deserve a Subsistence. They loaded them with Blows every Morning, when they made us pass in Review to take an Account of us, and in the most rigorous Weather they would neither allow them Straw nor a Covering; whilst those who fought heartily, that they might have the Honour of contributing to the Diversion of our Sovereign Lords, Master *Piper* and the Soldiers, were something better treated.

I saw several of my Companions perish thus miserably, who, as they were dying, conjured me and the other Privateers to revenge their Deaths, if we had ever the Happiness to be delivered from this terrible Imprisonment. Our Executioners had established a Law, which shewed plainly the great Pleasure they took in these Spectacles. The Conditions of this Law were, that he amongst us who fought against all that presented themselves, and remained the Conqueror, should be called the *Cock* of the Prisoners; and to render this honourable Title still more to be desired, they annexed to it the Right of sharing out the Portions

Portions of all the rest, and taking, for his own Mouth and his Friends, what was the most tolerable of the Provisions, and this to continue till he met with one who conquered him.

This Law made me take the Resolution of employing all the Strength I had left to become the *Cock*, and to procure a Possibility of dragging on a miserable Life some Time, for me and my Friends. But it was not easy for me to execute this Design successfully; I was to dispossess a strong Soldier of *Bretaigne* out of the Place, who had already killed four or five Prisoners who had the Temerity to dispute it with him. These Combats were the more proper to prolong the Pleasure of the Soldiers, as they were obliged to fight without Weapons, and the Victory was never completed but by the Death of the Vanquished. Nothing could have been better imagined than this Regulation, because the Person who dared to enter the Lists against the *Cock*, being always something near his own Strength, generally defended his Life for several Hours.

What

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What a Delight for the Gentlemen our Spectators!

I long hesitated upon challenging this redoubtable Defendant, whom I wished to overcome; when I examined him attentively, I despaired of conquering him. He was a large, well-set, black Fellow, and appeared to me to have twice my Strength; besides, I had heard that those of *Bretaigne* were the strongest Wrestlers in the World: The Time, however, pressed me to determine; my Strength diminished every Day for want of Nourishment, and I saw my Companions at the last Gasp. At length an Accident happened that made me take my Resolution.

One of the Centinels having heard me murmur, upon occasion of the Shares that the *Cock* had given us, called to him and told him that I threaten'd him. He came up to me directly, and asked me with an insulting Laugh, if I had not a Mind to take upon myself the Care of giving them in my Turn; that he should be very glad to see if I had Courage enough for that. This Brava-
do

do fired me in a Moment ; I looked upon the *Cock* as no more than a Chicken, and I told him with Fury, that I took him at his Word. The Soldiers and some of the Prisoners made a Circle round us in an Instant ; I let them see that the *Canadians* did not yield to the *Bretaignes* either in Strength or Address ; I extended him at his Length upon the Ground, and so roughly, that he lay for dead. I felt a Horror myself at my Victory, and I could pursue it no farther, tho' to render it compleat the Law demanded the Death of the Vanquish'd. The Spectators contented themselves with seeing him speechless, and Master *Piper*, having ordered him to be carried off, proclaimed me *Cock* of the Prisoners.

I did not long exercise my Employment, not that any one forced me to lose it in the same manner that I gained it. The Victory which I had won fill'd all the Prisoners with Terror, who having imagined that there was no Man so strong as my *Bretaigne*, were not in the least tempted to attack his Conqueror. I preserved my Post, therefore, gloriously for about a Fortnight, at the End
of

of which I fell ill ; and not being able then any longer to acquit myself of the Functions of my Charge, I lost the Privileges of it.

Behold my Comrades and myself now again reduced to suffer Hunger, and above that the excessive and severe Cold that then reign'd *, which proved very serviceable to the Designs of our Tyrants. There was not a Day passed without the Death of ten or twelve Prisoners. I remember that in those dreadful Moments our highest Wishes were, not to want Bread and clean Straw ; for we might better have laid upon the Ground than upon the Straw they gave us, which they changed so seldom, that it was consumed to Dust, and gave the most offensive Smell : With all this our Bolster was a Stone, and between four of us we had a miserable Blanket, so wore that it would not bear touching. In this intollerable Condition we bid each other adieu continually, and were reckoning about how many Days each of us might have to live ; less touched with Death itself, than we were with the Impossibility

* In *January*, 1710.

lity we were under of revenging ourselves. Our Religion, I confess, ought to have obliged us to make a better Use of our Misfortunes; but we had not Virtue enough to be capable of such an Effort.

Amongst the rest of the Prisoners, there were some of those Beggars by Profession, who not having been able to forget their first Trade, tho' they had carried a Musket, were so continually fatiguing every body who came to the Prison with their Lamentations, that they were always catching a few Halfpence, and by this they found means to prolong their Misery. One of these Wretches seeing me at the Extremity, and by consequence incapable of defending myself, came to me, reproach'd me with the Death of his Relation, the *Bretaigne*, who had indeed taken it in his Head to die after our Combat, and began to strike me with his Feet upon my Face, and stamp upon my Breast; I must have been very ill indeed, since I had not even Strength enough to swear at him.

I was sensible notwithstanding, and I heard my Comrades, who found themselves too weak to be able to assist me, asking one another if there were none amongst us strong enough to rise, and knock down this Wretch. I had been always before ignorant of what it was to be patient, and I had a painful Trial of it during the rest of the Day. I never in my Life prayed so fervently as I did then; I only desired, to be restored to Health for a quarter of an Hour, but the Motive of my Prayer did not render it worthy of being granted, neither was it.

Towards Night I resolved to take some Nourishment, if I may give that Name to about half an Ounce of Bread Crumbs steeped in Water; this, however, procured me a Sleep of three or four Hours, so that the next Morning I imagined I had almost recovered my Strength. About Ten o'Clock my Enemy, who, I suppose, had breakfasted upon some Alms that had been given him, laid down upon the Straw not far from me, and fell asleep immediately. I felt a secret Joy, and disposing myself,

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without the least Hesitation, to dispatch this poor Wretch, who offered himself to my Vengeance, I began to drag myself towards him, rolling along with me my Bolster, which was the only Instrument I could make use of to succeed in my Design: When I was close to my Victim, I implored inwardly the Assistance of Heaven, as if I was preparing for the most worthy Action upon Earth, not doubting but the Lord would strengthen my Arm, as he had done that of *Judith's*. But tho' the Stone did not weigh above seven or eight Pounds at most, yet, when I endeavoured to raise it to knock out the Brains of my Enemy, it seemed to me as heavy as the Rock of *Sisyphus*.

What a Mortification to me, to find my Expectation thus frustrated! What, said I to myself, after having a hundred Times raised from the Ground Weights of two or three hundred Pounds, I can't now lift up one of seven! O Heaven! must my Weakness thus betray my Resentment! I was so touched with this Thought, and felt my Heart pressed with so lively a Sense of Sorrow, that I could

could not forbear bursting out into Tears. It was for the first Time in my Life that I had ever shed any. My Companions on their Side attentive to my Actions, having perceived that I had only made a useless Effort to revenge myself, could not restrain theirs. So moving a Scene surprized the Goaler, who was then coming in : He asked us why we were in such Affliction ; and when he had heard the generous Cause of my Despair, for I made no Mystery of it to him, he told me with a compassionate Air, that he would take Care of me, for he loved a Man of Courage.

Master *Piper* by this worthy Pity discovered still more his inhuman Nature ; imagining he saw in my Procedure all the Barbarity and Fierceness of his own Composition, he could not forbear interesting himself for a Man who seemed to sympathize so nearly with him. In two Hours after, he gave me strong Proofs of it ; they brought me from him a Porringer of Broth out of his own Pot, with a little Piece of Beef upon it. I drank a little of the Broth,
I and

and sucked in some of the Meat, after having given a Share of it to my Comrades, of whom there were two who refused to eat, that they might be the sooner, they said, delivered from their Misery; and indeed one of them expired the Night following, and the other was found two Days after choaked with Earth and Dirt that he had swallowed.

As to me, given up to the Maxims of the Savages, which I had been imbued with from my Infancy, I hardened myself against my evil Fate. I breath'd only Vengeance, and would not have eat but to enable me to satisfy that Passion. I took an Oath to my unfortunate Privateers, that I would not leave their Miseries unpunished, protesting to them, that if I yielded to the Care the Goaler took of preserving my Life, it was solely with a Desire of revenging them; An Oath which I kept but too strictly afterwards, for the Punishment of the Sins of the first *English* that fell into my Hands. I now implore the Pardon of Heaven for it; but I must say I became cruel only by their Example. 'Tis well known,

known, that before this I always treated my Prisoners with Humanity.

Though I had drawn upon myself the Compassion of Master *Piper*, the Regard he had for me did not go such lengths as to procure me a Cordial, or any restorative Aliment; his Generosity did not extend so far neither; and what he called keeping me well, was only not letting me die for Hunger. However, I should have been very well satisfied with him, if he would in regard to me have carried his Charity so far as to assist my Companions; but they had not had the Happiness to acquire his Esteem in so worthy a Manner. I saw them all perish at length one after another.

I had more than once remarked, that those amongst the Prisoners who understood any Trade, and whom the Townsmen of *Kingsale* came to fetch in the Morning and brought back at Night, after having made them work all the Day, were the least miserable. If they led a hard and painful Life, they had the Consolation of eating as much as

they pleased; which, next to Revenge, I then imagined to be the greatest of Pleasures. I resolved therefore to tell the first Artisan who came to demand a Workman, that I was of his Profession. Fortune, which then delighted in persecuting me, made me fall into very bad Hands. A Gunsmith presented himself, to whom none of them expressed a Desire to go. He was reckoned a Brute, who took the Workmen more for the Pleasure of abusing them, than to make them work. I was no sooner in his House, but I perceived that he was not one of the best-natured of Mortals: He had a harsh Tone of Voice, and a most brutal Look.

He gave me immediately the Barrel of a Fuzil to file. I set about it handily enough for him to find no fault with me. Indeed I was marvellously excited to Industry by the Sight of a great Kettle that was upon the Fire, in which I saw a Mixture of Leeks, Onions, Cabbages, and Crusts of Bread. All this made my Mouth water, and inspired me with an Ardour for my Work. At length the Time of Eating, that delicious

cious Time, arrived; and to raise my Felicity to the Height, instead of giving me my Share only, as I expected, they did me the Honour to suffer me to put my Hand into the Kettle, without foreseeing the Consequences of it; for perhaps they might have given me my Portion, if they had guess'd at the Destruction I was going to make. However, the Gunsmith, his Wife, and his Daughter, far from testifying that they repented their having left me at liberty to eat as I pleased, seemed to be diverted with seeing me devour all that was in the Kettle. The Daughter of the Gunsmith, above all astonish'd at my Appetite, said to her Father: Certainly this Man is not made as we are, he must be hollow down to his Feet. He has eat twice as much as we have done, put it all together. Very true, replied the Master; and I suppose he designs to work in Proportion; otherwise we shall not be Friends.

Such was my Design indeed. I was too satisfied with my Entertainment, not to be industrious at my Work. I wish'd to preserve so good a Business, and to

make my Court the better to my Master, I would willingly have stripp'd to my Shirt if I had had one; but I had long had nothing left but a poor wretched Linnen Waistcoat, which Modesty forbid me to throw off. I set to my Work then very gayly, and for a Quarter of an Hour Things went on very well. I only felt my Arms a little more heavy than they were before Dinner. I was so filled with the Repast I had made, that I stood in need of a Nap of three or four Hours, to put me in a Condition of working as I ought to have done. It was with much Trouble that I kept my Eyes open, Sleep unfortunately stole upon me by Surprise. In vain I made all possible Efforts to rouse my Senses, he spread his gentlest Poppies round me, the File dropp'd out of my Hands, and I fell asleep as I stood.

The Gunsmith, who observed me, not finding his Account in these sleepy Fits, roused me the first Time with so terrible a Voice, that for a Quarter of an Hour I overcame my Inclination to it; but the God of Sleep had too strongly seized upon his Prey, so easily to

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to abandon it, and I again yielded to his Power. Then, the Master employing a more efficacious Method to awake me, applied a most dreadful Blow with his File upon my Shoulder-bone, which wounded me severely. There needed no more to dissipate my Sleep entirely, and rouse my Fury against the Gunsmith; that Instant I discharged so fierce a Stroke upon his Head with the Barrel of the Fuzil that I was filing, that he stood in no need of a second to fall motionless at my Feet.

As soon as I saw him upon the Ground and weltering in his Blood, I left the House, and took my Flight, without knowing where I should find a Refuge; but I did not go far before I was stopped by a Crowd of People that pursued me, and who gave themselves the Trouble to carry me back to Prison. Whilst they were conducting me thither, I recollected that the Gunsmith, when he presented me to his Wife in the Morning, had told her with a discontented Look, that Master *Piper* did just what he pleased; and that this Mr. Goaler would send five or six Work-

men to some Tradesmen, whilst he would grant but one to another, and that with an Ill-will. Upon this I laid the Plan of the most audacious Stratagem. I had the Assurance to tell Master *Piper*, that it was upon his Account I quarrelled with the Gunsmith, and that this wretched Mechanic had said a thousand impertinent Things to me of him, which I could not bear.

Our haughty Keeper took Fire upon this false Report, and forbid me to be laid in Irons, saying openly, that the Gunsmith had been treated as he deserved. When I saw that the Goaler gave credit frankly to what I had said to him, I began to give him a Detail of the insolent Discourses this Artisan had held about him, and the Answers I had made him. But not finding himself possessed of so much Patience as the Length of my Recital exacted from him, or else fearing to hear something too near the Truth, he imposed Silence upon me: 'Tis enough, my Friend, said he to me, I am satisfied with thee: I shall acknowledge the Zeal thou hast shewn for me by punishing a perfidious Neighbour,

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Neighbour, whom in a proper Time and Place I shall make repent of it.

The Effects of his Gratitude followed his Promises very soon, and to recompence me for having so courageously taken his Part, or rather for my happy Faculty of Lying, he gave me a good Soldier's Coat, made me eat alone, and doubled my Portion. Besides this, he permitted me to walk when I would in the Court of the Prison. This Taste of Liberty soon inspired me with a violent Desire of procuring it more fully, and I was not long in searching the Means of it. There was against the Wall a long Pole, upon which the Soldiers sometimes hung their Linnen to dry. I had need of no other Ladder to scale the Walls, and it served me still more commodiously to descend into the Street. After which I left the Town with all imaginable Expedition.

It was in this Manner that one Moonlight Night I left the Prison of *King-sale*. I marched till it was Day-light across the Lands, still bending my Course towards the North, according to the

Design I had formed of repairing to *Cork*, from whence I was not ignorant that Vessels often departed for *America*. At Sun-rise I got into a Wood, where I rested myself till it was Noon. I left there the Soldiers Coat that Master *Piper* had so generously made me a Present of, and was a little mortified to lose it thus; but after having considered that it might make me known, I made a Sacrifice of it to my Safety. I began my Journey again, and never stopped during the remainder of the Day.

The Fear of falling into the Hands of the Constables, hindered me from following the High-roads, which occasioned my going six times the Way I needed to have done, if I had had nothing to fear. At Night I supp'd on some Cabbages, that I had picked up as I pass'd by a Garden. I eat the Insides of them, and made a Bed of the largest Leaves. Such unwholesome Nourishment, and the Fatigues of so long a March, rendered me so weak, that the third Day, not being able to walk any longer, I was obliged to lay down in a Meadow, which served me for two Uses,

to rest me, and for my Subsistance. But indeed my Stomach, unused to such Meat, soon discharged it; and I remained with an Inanition which must have been infallibly followed by Death, if a charitable old Man, advertised by some Children who had seen me eating Grass, had not come to assist me with two other Persons, who conveyed me to a neighbouring Village.

They laid me at first upon some Straw in a Barn, where a Man of a very uncommon Stature, who seemed to me only to be a Domestick, drew near to me. He questioned me upon my Religion, and being convinced by my Answers that I was a Catholick, he immediately made them carry me into a little Chamber, where having repaired as soon as they had put me into Bed, he appeared to interest himself in my Preservation. The first thing that they did, was to clear me, by a strong Emetick, of all the Herbs that I had eat. This Remedy, though a very salutary one, exhausted the little Strength I had left, and I remained motionless for a Quarter of an Hour. The tall Man believ-
ing

ing that I was going to expire, ordered all who were in the Chamber to withdraw, then coming close to my Ear, he told me, with a loud Voice, to implore the Pardon of God, which I did mentally, not being able to pronounce one Word; I heard that he gave me the Absolution, after which he retired.

Upon his Retreat, several other Persons came in with Milk, of which, by tormenting me, they forced me to swallow some Drops: This being done, they thought proper to leave me to take some Rest, and certainly by that they saved my Life; for I fell into a profound Sleep, which lasted five or six Hours without Interruption, and the next Day I found myself out of Danger: I expected then to have seen again the tall Man that I have spoke of, but he never appeared again. I judged that it was some Priest concealed in the Family or the Neighbourhood: Nay, I do not yet know whether it was not a Bishop, who, like those of the Primitive Church, had no Train nor Equipage, but his good Works, and his Virtues. What makes me imagine it was a Prelate was, that
after

after he had absolved me, and exhorted me to offer my Sufferings to the Lord, if I am not mistaken, he gave his Blessing to the Host, who was alone in the Chamber with us, and who fell upon his Knees to receive it. I say, if I was not mistaken, for in the Condition I was then in, I could scarce depend upon the Testimony of my Eyes.

After some Days, I felt myself perfectly recovered; then the good People, to whom I ow'd this Obligation, to compleat generously the fulfilling all the Duties of Hospitality, put me into the Road to *Cork*, with six Shillings, a good Suit of Cloaths, two new Shirts, and a little Bag, in which there was much more Bread and Salt Beef than I could use before I came to my Journey's End, since I had but four Miles to go.

I was too unfortunate to be able to preserve all this any Time; I had not walked three Quarters of an Hour before I met two Constables. They would perhaps have let me pass by, without saying any thing to me, if the Dread of returning to Prison had not made me quit

quit the high Road, and run towards a Wood, which was at a small Distance from it. By this I rendered myself suspected; they judging that I fled from them, and that it was not certainly without a Reason: They soon overtook me, and summoned me to yield to them without Resistance. If I had had equal Arms, I should easily have put them to Flight, or constrained them to ask for Quarter; I endeavoured to defend myself, however, as much disarmed as I was, but I got nothing by it but Blows. They were the strongest Party. They carried me to the House of a Peasant, where they tied my Hands and Feet, and gave me in Charge to the Master of the Family, till their Return from an Expedition they were upon. They recommended to him to watch carefully over me, under Pain of being imprisoned for me, assuring him, on the contrary, that he should be well paid for his Trouble, if he did not let me escape. They even promised him all my Spoils, the better to engage him to keep me securely.

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The Countryman was enchanted with this Promise, and looking upon my Cloaths as a Treasure that already belonged to him, he took the Precaution, lest I should spoil them in the Night, to strip me of them before-hand, and put me on an old ragged Suit of his. To this effect, he, with four or five others, began to act the Parts of my *Volets de Chambre*, he untied my Hands, and made this Exchange even to my Shirt included. I suffered all with admirable Patience; and my Goaler was so satisfied with my Docility, that he listen'd to the Prayers I made him, not to tie me so very straitly, that I might be able to lay down and sleep. When I had supped upon the Provisions I had in my Knapfack, I threw myself upon some Straw, where, out of Curiosity searching in the Pockets of the ragged Habit they had put me on, what was my Transport at finding there a Knife, which they had not been so careful as to remember. I soon knew what Use I could make of it; it served me very readily to cut the Cords with which I was tied, and as soon as I had Reason to think that the Peasant and his Family were

were asleep, I went softly out of the House, fully satisfied at coming off with the Loss of my Cloaths.

I again took the Road to *Cork*, where I arrived early in the Morning; but not chusing to enter the Town in the Equipage that these Peasants had put me in, I passed the Night at the Port, which I examined with great Attention. I remarked several Sloops that it would have been easy for me to have carried off, if I had had Companions, but I did not pretend to undertake such an Enterprize alone. When I saw the Night approach, I retired to a kind of Farm, at the End of the Suburbs. I sought for a Place there where I might sleep under Covert, and conceal myself. I perceived a little Stable open, at a Distance from any House, and I went into it softly.

I had scarce set my Foot in it, before I heard two Animals grunt, as if to advertise me that the Place was taken. If I had had to deal with reasonable Creatures, I should have employed Prayers and Civility, to obtain a small Share of
their

their Lodging ; but finding myself under a Necessity of placing myself without their Permission, I advanced towards them, taking care, as much as possible, not to incommode them ; however, with all my Complaisance, I had the Misfortune to tread upon one of their Legs, and the Pain that he felt made him rise in a Passion to go out. I immediately seized upon his Place, and did not restore it to him when he returned, after having staid a Quarter of an Hour at the Door ; nevertheless he stretched himself by me, after which we were very quiet, and continued good Friends for the rest of the Night.

I passed the following Night in the same Lodging, but as I had eat nothing since my leaving the Peasant's, Hunger began once more to affect me ; in vain, for to refresh myself, I drank abundantly of a fine clear Stream, that run about twenty Paces from the Farm ; this only appeased my Stomach for a Moment. At length, unable to support this any longer, on the third Day I came out of my Retreat, to see if any one would offer me a Morsel of Bread. I walked

a considerable Time upon the Port, where, notwithstanding the dreadful Hunger that tormented me, I took a Pleasure in considering the Vessels that presented themselves to my View; and I did not see one under Sail, without representing to myself what I would do if it was mine. I had an Air that inspired Compassion, and I perceived plainly, by the manner in which several People looked upon me, that they would willingly have given me an Alms, if I could have brought myself to demand it of them, but that my Haughtiness absolutely prevented me from submitting to. I was not, however, any longer the Master of my self, when a Maid-Servant came and threw out, almost at my Feet, a Basket-full of the Refuse of the Kitchen, among which I remarked some Remains of Roots and Cabbages, that tempted me to such a Degree, that I seized upon them with the most excessive Greediness.

Two Quakers, who by Chance passed by me at that Moment, were Witnesses of this Action, and penetrated with the Misery to which they were sensible I must be reduced, and willing to accommodate them-

themselves to the Shame which prevented me from holding out my Hands to the Passengers, they each of them threw me a Shilling, without stopping to speak to me, lest it should give me Pain. I made them a low Bow, and gathered up this Charity, with which I went into a poor Eating-House, where I made myself amends for my long Fast; after this, retiring to the Farm, I regained my Stable.

I did not pass this Night in so much Tranquility as I had done the preceding, the enormous Repast which I had indulged myself in banished all Peace and Concord; for in a few Hours after I was laid down, a burning Fever seized upon my Blood, and threw me into a Delirium. Contrary to the Laws of Hospitality, I began to fight and strike my two Hosts, crying out, as if I had been in a Battle with my Savages against the *English*. My Reason sometimes returned, and whilst that assisted me I kept Silence; but as soon as ever it forsook me, I began again to cry out and struggle. I suppose I went on thus for the whole Night, and during my
Deli-

Delirium several Things happened that I had no Knowledge of: All that I can say is, that in the Morning, when I recovered the Use of my Senses, I was not a little astonished to find myself in the midst of a Dozen Women, who said to one another, *The Man's a dying! The Man's a dying!*

From the Stable I had been conveyed to a Chamber tollerably furnished, and put into a very good Bed. I learn'd that I owed this charitable Assistance to an *English* Lady, the Widow of Mr. *Eckson*, an Officer of *Cork*, who had been killed in the last Campaign. This Lady had been educated at *London* by a *French* Woman, who had inspired her with a Kindness and Benevolence for the *French*, of which she then gave me a Proof. She assured me, that with her I was in perfect Safety, and promised to procure me a Passage over into *France*, as soon as my Health was thoroughly re-established, and, at the same Time, furnished me with Linnen and with Cloaths. This charitable Lady might bestow all these Favours upon me with Impunity; my Figure preserved her Cha-

Character from the least Imputation of Scandal; I was so filthy, so pale, so meagre, and so hideous, that I had more the Look of a Spectre than that of a Man.

I remained above two Months with Mrs. Eckson, who, to avoid the Reproaches of a Nation so much at Enmity with our's, made me pass for a Relation of the *French* Woman who had brought her up. During that Time I recovered my Health intirely. Then my generous Hostess, who was sensible that, notwithstanding the Interest she took in my Fate, I should never enjoy a perfect Tranquility of Mind whilst I was in *Ireland*, was the first to search an Occasion of conveying me from thence. She put me on board a Ship bound to *Jamaica*, the Captain of which engaged himself to set me ashore in *Hispaniola*, where, as I said, I had an agreeable Establishment.

I took care upon the Voyage, not to tell the *English* who I was, and upon what Design I went to the *Antilles*. If the Captain had known me, notwithstanding

standing the Promise he had given to Mrs. *Eckson*, he would have sent me to the Bottom of the Sea, to finish a Life there, which I only preserved to make the most cruel War against his Nation. When they made the *Cape Tiburon*, as they usually do in going from *Europe* to *Jamaica*, he put me into the Sloop, and ordered me to be set ashore. From thence going from one Plantation to another, I reached at length to *Petit Goave*, where Monsieur *de Choiseuil* was extremely surprized to see me again.

He could not, without shivering with Indignation, hear the Recital I made him of the rigorous Treatment I had received at *Jamaica*, and in *Ireland*. I painted it to him in such lively Colours, that he applauded the Impatience I testified, to revenge myself and all the unhappy Wretches who had perished in this long and cruel Slavery. Whilst I was in this pious Disposition, he gave me a Vessel, called the *Brave*, and for Associates ninety Men, whom he found means to assemble in less than a Month, and

and who were all highly proper to second my Intentions.

I soon put to Sea with these Companions. It was now above two Years since I had had a Cutlass at my Side; I burn'd with Impatience to make a Trial upon the *English*, whether I still knew how to make use of it. Instead of waiting for an Opportunity, which might have made me languish for some Time, I went in search of one upon the Coasts of *Jamaica*, cruizing audaciously within Sight of their Ports.

The first Vessel that we met, which was destined to bear all the Weight of our Vengeance and Fury, had only eighteen Guns, and a hundred and thirty Men. The Captain who commanded it was a sly, one-ey'd, old Sailor, who had already had to do with the Privateers. As soon as he saw that we were so, and that we disposed ourselves to attack him, far from endeavouring to make a Chace, he seemed to design to make Head against us, or at least to parley with us. In effect, he sent his Sloop to propose, that we should both
con-

continue our different Routes. He told us, he believed we could neither of us do better; that he was very sensible there was nothing to be got with us; and that if we would detach two Men to come on board him, he would let them see, that he carried nothing that was worth so much as the Powder that we should lose by him, as, unfortunately for him, he had missed of his Loading: In a word, that there was nothing but Blows to be got on either Side.

The one-ey'd Captain said the Truth; we did not at all doubt of it, and it would have been Prudence not to come to Action with him; but we were in Search of the *English*, and we desired to meet them more to use them ill than to carry off their Riches. The Captain having found, by our Answer, that we rejected his Proposition, as reasonable as it was, made us fully sensible that Fear had had no Share in it. He bore up to us courageously, and did not refuse the Boarding; yet it succeeded ill with him, for he was obliged to strike, after an Engagement of a quarter of an Hour.

Our

Our Prize, in effect, justified what the Captain had said of it; it appear'd so poor to us, that we blew it up, after having set ashore what remain'd of the Company; and having given those unhappy Wretches a Treatment, that the Remembrance of that which the *French* had suffered in the Prisons of *Kingsale*, could scarce render excusable. I only leave you your Lives, said I to them, that you may inform your Correspondents in *Ireland*, that I shall treat in this manner all the *English* that fall into my Hands, till I have revenged, at least Man for Man, fifteen hundred *French* Prisoners, whom they forced to perish miserably in the Prisons of *Kingsale*. Let them recollect the Chevallier *Beauchene*, added I; they know the Name; this is only a Prelude to what they must expect from me.

We made off with the greatest Dispatch from the Coasts of *Jamaica*, not doubting but the Ships that were station'd there would soon come in Search of us upon that Sea. We held a Council, and it was resolved that we would go to cruize near the *Canaries*, where we might, beside the *English*, meet with some Por-

Portuguese Vessels, which seldom return'd that Way, it was said, without a large Quantity of Gold-Dust from the Coast of *Africa*.

This Run was very fatiguing to us, and the contrary Winds made us employ so much Time in it, that as soon almost as we arriv'd we were oblig'd to put in for Refreshment at the *Canaries*. We design'd to have rested ourselves at these Islands, till about a Dozen of our Brethren, who were then ill, should be thoroughly recover'd; but there were in the Town of *Canary*, as well as in that of *St. Domingo*, Ladies, who, not hating the *French*, had soon acquired us the Aversion of the *Spaniards*. We perceiv'd at first, that we must be more reserv'd there than in *America*, and use greater Circumspection, as Justice was very rigorously obeyed in the Place, and they had not the same Respect for the Name of Privateer that they had in the *Antilles*. The Governor himself seem'd to affect not to use us with all the Regard that we imagin'd he ought to have done.

He

He shewed so little Complaisance to us, that he concern'd himself as if it had been his own Quarrel, in a little Dispute we had with some of the Citizens, and which occasioned our leaving the Place sooner than we had designed. The Detail of the Affair was this: Several of the Citizens took upon them one Day to pretend to visit our Vessel, in order to search for two young Women, who most certainly were not there, and who seeing that all the Harm that passed in the Town was placed to our Account, I presume, had made use of the Opportunity to get themselves carried off by their Lovers. We declared to the Citizens, that we had neither Maid nor Wife on board, and that they must be satisfied with our Declaration. The Citizens went and made their Complaints of us to the Governor, who deliver'd them an Order for us to let them enter into our Vessel, and search it thoroughly. They came to the Number of above a hundred to present this Order to us, which we despised instead of respecting. Upon this the Citizens, thinking to intimidate us, began to talk of Prisons, Dungeons, and Irons, which we no sooner heard, but

we threw ourselves upon these bullying Gentlemen, who at first seemed to put themselves in a Posture of Defence ; we laid about a Dozen of them dead upon the Spot, and the rest took their Flight. Then, without Loss of Time, we weighed Anchor directly, highly satisfied with having demolished the Citizens.

We were scarce got off to Sea, before we perceived with Sorrow that three of our Companions were wanting. We were certain they were not killed in the Engagement, since none of our Party had been so much as wounded ; therefore we were perswaded they were in the Town. To recover them again with a high Hand, we cruized upon the Coasts of the Island, and about a League from the Port meeting with a large *Spanish* Bark, who not imagining she had any Reason to distrust us, suffered us to board her, and we soon made ourselves Masters of her. We brought her in Tow within Sight of *Canary* ; and we sent two *Spaniards* in our Sloop to tell the Governor, that if he did not send us back our three Privateers upon the Spot, we would set fire to our Prize
before

before his Eyes, and blow her up with the threescore Men in her that composed her Crew. The Reprisal neither suiting with the Governor, nor the *Spaniards*, they restored our three Brethren to us, who themselves brought back our Sloop.

We coasted for some Time upon the Shore of *Africa*, from whence we went to *Senegall*, and from thence to the Fort of *Goeree*. We cruized after this along the Grain Coast, where, whilst we took in Wood and Water, some Negroes made us understand that there was a large *English* Ship in the River *Gambia*. The Natives of this Coast hate the *English*. Monsieur *de Gennes* found it so in the Year one thousand six hundred and ninety-five, when he took from them in this River the Island and Fort of *St. James*, which he blew up, after having carried off above eighty Pieces of Cannon, and a large Quantity of Merchandize. We went up the River as far as the *Little Island of Dogs*, where we found the Vessel we were in search of. She made a long and noble Resistance,

sistance, though she had but sixteen Guns and sixty Men.

There was on board of this Vessel two *French* Prisoners, who told us they had been dragged from Ocean to Ocean for several Years, to force them to redeem themselves by an exorbitant Ransom that was demanded of them, and which they were not in a Situation to pay. They had been taken in endeavouring to return into *France* from *Canada*, where one of them had retired to avoid the Consequences of a Duel, and the other to search for and bring back into *France*, by Order of the Minister, a Woman, whose Death had render'd his Attempt fruitless.

I questioned this last extremely, and the more I considered him, the more I thought he was not unknown to me. *Montreal, Chambly, Sorel, Frontenac*, he knew all those Places. I desired him to inform me of his Name, and he told he was called the Count *de Monneville*. This Name destroyed all my Ideas, but I recollected them again the next Day in Conversation with him; our Discourse
gave

gave Occasion to a Knowledge of each other, that afforded us both an equal Pleasure. As we were speaking of the Expedition of Monsieur *de Frontenac* against the *Iroquese*, I told him that I was myself at that Time amongst those Savages, and that I was taken Prisoner, and brought back to my Parents, by an Officer, called *Le Gendre*.

At the Name of *Le Gendre*, he interrupted me, and looking upon me with more Attention than he had done before, It was I then, cried he, who did you that Service, for that was the Name which I then bore. Can it be possible, added he, that you was one of those Children whom I carried off from the *Iroquese*? No, certainly, replied I, but you see in me the young Man, who foolishly acting the *Iroquese*, tho' a *Canadian*, had very near forfeited his Life for the ridiculous Desire of passing in earnest for a Savage. Therefore, I have done more for you now, continued I smiling, than you did for me then, since I deliver you from the Hands of a Nation that you detest; and, on the contrary, you carried me off from a Country that

I love, and for which I resolved to die. I own that I am still indebted to you, resumed he, and I hope that you will put me under a Necessity of owing you still more. I desired him to explain himself more clearly, and he assured me, that, except from the Pleasure of meeting me again, the Liberty I had restor'd would have no Charms for him, whilst he enjoyed it out of *France*.

I protested to him, that I did not think of obliging him by halves ; that I would do all that depended upon me to find an Opportunity of sending him back to his own Country ; and that it was the least Proof he might expect from the Gratitude I had for all the generous Treatment which I received from him, when he might have used me like a Slave. The Friendship, which from that Moment we renewed with each other, in a few Days became so strong, that we began to live together like two Brothers, who loved each other tenderly. We received him as a Privateer, together with the Gentleman who was with him ; and, without having a Regard to the Date of their Reception, we shared

shared the Booty equally with them, though they were themselves a Part of it.

Monneville had a gay, lively Wit, full of Repartee, which made his Conversation highly entertaining. The Joy of seeing himself at Liberty, and the Hopes of returning soon again into his native Country, where, he said, he had a fine Seat, and an Estate of a considerable Revenue, made him recover all the Gaiety that I had seen him with in *Canada*. He amused us so agreeably every Day, by the Histories he related to us, that we were continually furrounding him, and were as attentive to hearken to him, as the Populace when they are listening to the Discourse of a Quack Orator.

One Day, when he was melancholly and thoughtful, contrary to his usual Custom, I said to him, Monsieur, the Count, you are no longer with us; you are thinking incessantly of your Return into *France*; you count all the Moments whilst it is delayed. Do not think that a Crime in me, replied he sighing. I

had formed a happy Union in my own Country, which I had scarce tasted the Sweets of, when an absolute Command obliged me to return into *Canada*, and from thence I fell into those Chains which you have broke. You ought to pardon me the Impatience I have to go and dry up the Tears of a Mother, and of a Wife, who are both infinitely dear to me.

He was almost in Tears as he pronounced these last Words, and as there was not a Privateer but had conceiv'd an Affection for him, we were all sensible of his Grief; not to irritate it, we left him to reflect at Leisure upon the Remembrance of his Family, yet we had all a Curiosity to hear the Recital of his Adventures, and I in particular. Therefore, the next Day, seeing he had recovered his usual Humour, we conjured him to relate to us the History of his Life. Gentlemen, said he to us, you demand a Detail of me, which will prove a very long one; you will certainly repent of your Curiosity, if I have the Indiscretion to satisfy it.

The

The more *Monneville* excused himself from satisfying our Desires, the more we pressed him not to refuse us that Pleasure. All my Companions and myself persisted so obstinately in our Entreaties, that he at length yielded to our Request. The Privateers formed a Circle round him upon the Ship, and he began his History as it is wrote in the following Book.

The End of the SECOND BOOK.



THE



THE
ADVENTURES
OF THE
Chevalier de Beauchene.

BOOK III.

Monneville relates the mysterious History of his Birth. He is brought up till the Age of twelve under the Disguise of a Girl in the Castle of the Baron du Mesnil, with Lucilia the sole Heiress of that Nobleman. A Financer, deceived by the Dress of Monneville, carries him to Paris, under the Pretext of placing him with a Lady in quality of her Woman; but having other Views upon this false Peasant, he places her
in

in a Convent as a Pensioner, spares nothing for her Education, and at length proposes to marry her. Monneville, to avoid his Importunities, searches and at length finds Means to leave the Convent. He puts on the Habit of a Cavalier, makes a Conquest of an Actress, and becomes Clerk to a great Man in the Revenues, who endeavours to marry him to his Daughter by force. Monneville refuses to consent to it. Upon his Refusal he is arrested, conveyed to Prison, and the next Day sent to Canada.



IN one thousand six hundred and sixty-seven, after the Death of Philip the IVth, King of Spain, Louis the XIVth, resolving to do himself Justice, and maintain the Rights he had by the Queen, Maria Theresa of Austria, his Consort, over several Domains in the Low Countries, put himself at the Head of his Troops, and marched into Flanders with a most shining Army,

The

The Count *de Monneville*, who had distinguished himself in the former Wars, would not fail of attending that Monarch, and was accompanied by his two Sons, who had just finished their Exercises at *Paris*, the eldest being seventeen, and the other only sixteen Years old. He wished that fighting by his Side in a Company of Horse which he commanded, they might see, that if the *French Noblesse* always perform Prodigies of Valour, they are still more invincible when they combat under the Eye of their Sovereign.

The Siege of *Charleroy* was the opening of the Campaign, and our two young Volunteers had the Happiness to signalize themselves by some Actions of Valour, which Monsieur *de Turenne* himself did not disdain to honour with his Praise. He did more, he told the Count obligingly, that he ought to moderate their Ardour, 'till Experience had informed them that there was more requisite to form an Officer besides Fire and Impetuosity.

Douay,

Douay, Tournay, Lisle and Oudenarde, these Cities all subdued in the same Campaign, made the Treaty of Triple Alliance publick, which was concluded between *England, Holland and Sweden*. The Count, who observed his two Sons during all these Sieges, perceived with Pleasure that they were born for the Field, and forgetting the Counsel of *Monfieur de Turenne*, he procured them every Occasion of instructing themselves in Danger. He every Day put their Courage to the Test, without considering that they were too young, and too delicate to support, unhurt, all the Fatigues to which he exposed them. This exhausted their Strength to such a Degree, that they fell ill, and were unable to mount on Horseback.

Their Father seeing the Necessity they were under of Repose, obliged them to quit the Army, and sent them to his Estate, where he proposed soon to re-join them, and to pass with them great Part of the Winter Quarter. He flattered himself with a deceitful Hope: He did not consider that he served under a King who made no Distinctions of
of

of Seasons where Glory was concerned. *Louis* marched towards *Franch-Comte* in the Depth of Winter, and in a small Time made a Conquest of that Province; but the Siege of *Dol* proved fatal to several Officers of Distinction, and amongst the rest to the Count *de Monneville*, who received a Musquet-shot, of which he died.

Whilst the Father expired before *Dol*, his eldest Son was drawing near his End at his Estate: A languishing Disorder accompanied by continual Pains, that were occasioned by an ill-cured Wound, carried him off in a small Time, notwithstanding all the Remedies the Chevalier his Brother could procure for his Recovery. The Chevalier, who had the sincerest Friendship for him, was still more afflicted for his Loss, when he learned the unhappy Fate of his Father. This News raised his Sorrow to the Height. Though by losing these two Objects that were so dear to him he was become the Master of his own Fortune, which indeed was not very considerable, he could not comfort himself for these two fatal Events; retired
within

within his House he lived so dejected a Life, that he must have killed himself with his Chagrin, if the Marquis de Ganderon, his Neighbour, had abandoned him to his Melancholly; but that humane Nobleman, in order to dissipate it, drew him to his Seat almost every Day, and detained him there as long as he could possibly, by Amusements which insensibly moderated his Affliction.

The Marquis had a Daughter of about Thirteen, an only Child, extremely handsome, and who was to be one of the richest Heiresses in the Province. He loved her tenderly, and educated her with the Care of a Governor as well as that of a Father: History sacred and profane, Fable, Geography, Heraldry, every thing that could contribute to render a Person accomplished, he taught her himself, as he was highly capable of doing. In a word, his whole Business was her Education. My Child, said he to her often, cultivate your Mind whilst you are young, and acquire those Talents that may make you respected and beloved in the World;
Riches

Riches alone can never render you happy ; and if they could, consider that their Possession is not more solid than that of Beauty. Those two Advantages are of very uncertain Duration. Nothing is a real Merit but what Fortune cannot dispossess you of. A virtuous Heart, a well cultivated Mind, these are the only Blessings that are Proof against all Time and Chance.

As to Madam *de Ganderon*, she occupied herself entirely with the Detail of her Domestick Affairs, trusting to her Husband for the Care of forming the Manners of her Daughter. This young Lady so often heard them both pity the Destiny of the Chevalier, now by the Death of his Brother become the Count, that she also took a great Interest in his Misfortunes. She saw him every Day ; and the more Regard she perceived her Parents to express for him, the more she thought herself obliged to contribute her Share towards his Consolation. She wished to follow the good Examples that were given her.

For two Years she imagined she had only the same Compassion for the young Count as possessed her Father and the Marchioness, who treating him as if he had been their own Son, disposed her inadvertently to chuse him for her Lover. On the other hand, the extreme Reserve of the Count's Behaviour to her procuring him a Liberty of seeing her familiarly, by Degrees, without knowing his Danger, he became deeply in Love with her; but however ardent the Passion was which he felt for *Mademoiselle de Ganderon*, he had for a considerable Time the Strength to condemn it to Silence, lest by declaring it, he should displease the Marquis and the Marchioness, when an unforeseen Conjunction forced his Secret from him.

Madame de Ganderon one Day took her Daughter in private, and told her, that a President, who had a large Estate joining to *Ganderon*, had demanded her in Marriage for his eldest Son, and had obtain'd her of her Father; but that it was agreed, upon Account of the Youth of the future Bride, that the Marriage should not be celebrated in two Years, at the Expiration

ration of which Time, the intended Bridegroom was to enter into a handsome Post. *Mademoiselle de Ganderon*, more surprized than charmed with this News, not knowing what Answer to make, returned Thanks to her Mother for the Clause of two Years Delay, which she told her, was at her Desire, and withdrew into the Garden, very uneasy, and very thoughtful. She had no Knowledge of the Son of the President, and she wished he might resemble the young Count. Upon this she began to plunge herself into a thousand Reflections, that distracted her, without her being able to penetrate the Cause of them, when *Monneville* came up to her.

She felt an Emotion of Joy when she remarked that her Mother, who followed him, had stopped to give some Orders, and making use of the Opportunity, she informed him, in few Words, of the projected Marriage; and then, without giving him Time to pronounce a Word, she asked him, with an Air of Vivacity, if, when she was no longer in the Castle of *Ganderon*, he would still come there every

every Day, and whether he should not sometimes wish to see her there. The Count, transported with Pleasure, told her, pressing her Hand with Tenderness, that he loved her too much to survive her Loss one Moment.

I know not whether the Marchioness, who then came to interrupt their Conversation, did not do them a good Office in it; for after having so abruptly made a mutual Declaration of their secret Sentiments, they remain'd both speechless; they soon, however, recovered themselves, and if they were prevented from continuing their Conversation in Words, they gave each other in return such tender and passionate Glances, that they had Reason to be satisfied with the Day, tho' those that followed passed still more agreeably. Lovers, when once they have dared to say, I love, insensibly advance much farther than they imagine. They resemble People who are passing over the Sea, and who find themselves at the End of their Voyage, without so much as perceiving that they have changed their Place. The Count and his Mistress lived in a most perfect Intelligence;

genes; they passed their Days together in such Tranquility, that the Time of their Separation drew near before they once had thought of it.

One Morning, when that Count came as usual to dine with the Marquis, he found so numerous a Company, that he chose rather to return home, than to sit down at Table with so many People, most of whom were unknown to him. He knew not what Company he avoided; it was the Family of his Rival, who came to conclude the Marriage proposed.

Mademoiselle de Ganderon, who had not before seen the Husband that was destined for her, was not enchanted with his Figure. It was not indeed necessary that she should be prejudiced in Favour of another, to remark that the Son of the President was no very agreeable Object. Imagine to yourselves, a long, simple-looking Scholar, mounted upon two Legs, as long and as small as Sticks. His Mind answered perfectly to his Person; if the Conversation turned upon any common Subjects, he kept a stupid Silence; if they were willing he should speak,

Speak, they must put him upon antient History, or *Roman Poetry*, and he did not speak ten *French Words* without bringing in some *Latin Phrase*.

A Lover of this kind was not very proper to make a tender Impression upon so lively a Genius as that of *Made-moiselle de Ganderon*. Nevertheless, tho' he displeased her excessively, far from testifying it to him by an Air of Coldness, she had the Malice to feign that she took a Pleasure in the studied Expressions he made use of: She even carried her Complaisance so far, as to pass the whole Afternoon in conversing, and being retired with him in private; but in the Evening she could not forbear diverting herself at his Expence, before the whole Company. The Marquis *de Ganderon*, during the Supper, asked her, if she was satisfied with the Conversation of Monsieur the President's Son. 'Tis impossible to be more so, replied she, this young Gentlemen possesses the History of Antiquity to Perfection; he has related to me the History of *Cyrus* in his Cradle; and tho' he talked above

two Hours, he has left the Prince in his Leading-Strings.

This Stroke, and several others of the same Nature, diverted all the Persons at the Table, except the future Bridegroom, who taking it ill that *Mademoiselle de Ganderon* should pretend to turn him into Ridicule, from that Moment began to feel some Movements of Aversion for her; notwithstanding this, the Marquis and the President concluded their Agreement. When the Parents of the Great are satisfied as to Birth and Fortune, they seldom concern themselves about the rest.

Whilst Monsieur and Madame *de Ganderon*, who returned home with the President, were busy with him in drawing up the Articles of the Contract, the Count making use of the Liberty he always had, of being at the Marquis's when he pleased, came thither, and finding his Mistress alone, he learned from her all that had passed. They were both excessively moved: My dear Count, said *Mademoiselle de Ganderon* to him, 'tis done, To-morrow, perhaps, you

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lose me for ever. 'Tis To-morrow then that I must lose my Life, replied the Lover; you shall hear of my Death before you are in the Arms of another. What can be done to prevent this Misfortune? resumed the Lady. Speak; I am capable of undertaking every thing to preserve myself for you.

This Discourse was insensibly followed by an Infinity of the same Kind, and you may judge, that these Lovers finding themselves without any Witnesses, consulted only their Love in the Resolution they should take. *Monneville* could only think of one, which his Mistress had the Weakness to approve, and the Extravagance of which she soon after had Opportunity of repenting at leisure; for the very next Day, as the Marquis was at Dinner, he received a Letter from the President, which contained these Words:

“ My Son conveyed himself secretly
 “ from hence this Morning, in order to
 “ return to *Paris*. He wrote to me at
 “ the first Posthouse a Billet, by which
 “ he declares to me, that he renounces
 Made-

“ Mademoiselle *de Ganderon* for ever,
“ whose satyrical Wit is not in the least
“ suitable to his Inclinations ; and adds,
“ that if I pretend to constrain him to
“ marry her against his Will, he will
“ shut himself up for ever in a Retreat
“ where he shall be free from the Ty-
“ ranny of Paternal Power. I am ex-
“ tremely mortified at such a disagree-
“ able Accident, and conjure you to
“ accept the humblest Excuses I can
“ make for the Procedure of my Son.”

If this News at first gave an Excess
of Joy to our Lovers, Inquietude was
not long before it mingled its Bitterness
with their unguided Pleasures. Made-
moiselle *de Ganderon* began by Degrees
to perceive that she had had too much
Complaisance for the Count, and repre-
senting then to herself, that the Condi-
tion she was in would much sooner ex-
cite the Anger than the Pity of the Mar-
quis, she repented, but too late, of her
Imprudence. This Reflection, which
she ought to have made before, put her
under a Necessity of finding some Ex-
pedient to conceal from her Parents the
Knowledge of a Fault, which she then

wished she could hide from her own Remorse.

She held a Council upon this Head with her Lover, who shared her Alarms, judging, as she did, that it was of the highest Importance to them both, that the Family should be ignorant of their Indiscretion. To this Effect it was agreed that the Lady should appear melancholly and dejected, which she could very easily do in the present Conjunction; that she should avoid all Company, and that under the Pretence of the Affront she had received from the Son of the President, she should desire to retire into a Convent for some Months.

She performed her Part extremely well. She affected to be highly piqued at the Behaviour of the Son of the President, testified an extreme Desire of entering into a Monastery, and her Demand, which passed for a noble and generous Resentment, was easily granted. Monsieur *de Ganderon* writ to a Relation he had at *Paris*, to desire her to chuse out a Religious House in that great City, where his Daughter might acquire

acquire those little Qualifications which were wanting in her Education, and which could not be procured in the Province. The Lady at *Paris* gave him in Answer, that she would with great Pleasure have taken that Care upon her, but that being just upon departing, to pass two or three Months in the Country, she conjured him to defer this till her Return, assuring him, that she would let him know the very Day of her Arrival at *Paris*.

This good Lady kept her Word as exactly as if she had divined that there was no Time to lose. The Marquis and Madame *de Ganderon*, who saw their Daughter languish with Impatience and Inquietude, dreading lest it should make her ill, made her depart immediately, under the Conduct of an old Governess, who had brought her up from her Infancy. They carried her in their own Equipage to the nearest Town, where they had bespoke two Places in the public Coach, and having bid her adieu, mixed her Tears with those that bathed her Face, and returned very dejectedly to the Castle.

Two Days before this Separation, the Count and his Mistress had concerted what should be done during their Absence, and the Lady had advised her Lover to be more assiduous than ever to her Parents, for two Reasons; the first, to banish all Suspicion; and the second, that he might the more frequently be in a Place which would make him remember her.

Now, Gentlemen, in a Moment I shall appear upon the Stage; you expected it no doubt, and I read in your Eyes, that you will not be in the least surprized to hear what I am going to relate to you. *Mademoiselle de Ganderon* made this Journey to *Paris* only for my Sake; she was willing that I should receive my Birth in that Centre of all the Pleasures, that can be tasted in this lower World, in that Chaos of mysterious Intrigues, so favourable to clandestine Marriages.

Monneville was interrupted in this Part of his History by all the Privateers, who were eager to make him their Compliments upon the stolen Tenderness

derness of which he was the worthy Pledge. We embraced him in our Turns, protesting to him, that we looked upon it as one of the greatest Favours of Fortune to have the Happiness of possessing in our Vessel a Child of Love. He received our Rallery agreeably, and joined in it himself; after which he resumed his Discourse in this manner:

To return to Mademoiselle *de Ganderon*, who I may from this Time call my Mother, she happened to be alone in the Coach with her Governess, and she was not very sorry for it, being more able to reflect upon her Affairs; she flattered herself, that she should soon find Acquaintance at *Paris*, and that she might easily get some discreet Person there, whose Assistance would be of the greatest Use to her. But, whether she had been mistaken in her Calculation, or whether the wretched Coach she was in incommoded her, or, in fine, that I finding myself not much at my Ease, in a Body pressed by too strait Stays, thought proper to precipitate my leaving so close a Prison; the Lady, however, towards the End of the second

Day's Journey, was attacked with some Uneasinesses that gave her a Presage of my approaching Birth.

A little Village, situated as if on purpose in the Middle of the Plain, for the Convenience of Travellers, was destined to have the Honour of being my Birth-Place. The Hostess of the Inn was a young Woman, who had been married about a Year, and had lain-in of a Daughter not three Days before. Mademoiselle *de Ganderon* immediately went to her, and, sliding some Crowns into her Hand, discovered the Secret to her. The Hostess, gained by this little Liberality, offered willingly to serve my Mother, and acquitted herself of it with great Dexterity. She ordered her a little Chamber close to her own, and placed the Governess in another, at a considerable Distance. After having taken this Precaution, she sent for her Midwife, whom my Mother brought over to her Interest in the same manner as she had done the Hostess.

It was Time that she should have Assistance, I never ceased playing the little Devil

Devil till I was at Liberty; I should then have spoil'd all by my Cries, if they had not been taken for those of the Daughter of the Hostess. I had the good Fortune to cry alone, the other Child not being tempted to enter into the least Duet with me.

This Delivery was most happy, tho' they did not invoke the triple Divinity of *Hecate*; and the Midwife, who staid the whole Night with my Mother, exhausted all her Art to put her in a Condition of supporting the Motion of the Coach. To gain some Hours Repose, they told the Coachman in the Morning that *Mademoiselle de Ganderon* was indisposed, and begged him to defer his Departure a little. He would have been insensible to that Request, if it had not been accompanied by a Pistole, and an Order to provide him a handsome Breakfast. This made him have Patience, and gave my Mother Leisure to prepare for her Departure with less Precipitation; yet the Efforts she must use to rise, and to dress herself, one should have imagined, would have occasioned the Death of a Person of so delicate a

Constitution. But we see every Day in such Cases surprizing Instances of Courage.

Before she began her Journey again she went into the Chamber of the Hostess, and having again required Secrecy of her, she drew out of her Pocket a Purse in which were thirty *Louis d'Ors*, which she easily perswaded her to accept. — Take this Money, my good Friend, said she to her, as a Pledge, till you receive further Marks of my Gratitude, and of that of a young Gentleman whom you will soon see here. Look out a Nurse for my Son, I conjure you, and don't let him go out of your Knowledge. Afterwards, having desired Ink and Paper, she writ some Lines upon a Sheet of it, which she sealed with her own Seal, and gave it to the Hostess, saying to her, You must deliver this Billet to a Gentleman who will come here, and who will shew you another Letter writ by the same Hand and sealed with the same Seal. When she had spoke thus, she desired to see me, and after having kiss'd me sighing, she went into the Coach with the Help
of

of the good old Governess, and placed herself in such a Manner that she was almost laid down.

They arrived late at the Place where they were to dine ; she only took some Chicken Broth without coming out of the Coach, and five or six Hours of Repose, which she enjoyed the following Night, gave her the Strength to present herself the next Day to her Aunt, who seeing her pale and disordered only attributed it piously to the Fatigues of the Journey. I doubt not, Gentlemen, but this Relation of my Mother's bringing me into the World, seems to you to entrench a little upon Probability. It does not appear possible to you, perhaps, that this Scene should pass in an Inn without the old Governess having the least Knowledge of it. But I have given you the Detail as I had it from my Mother, who did not say to me whether the *Duegna* was or was not in the Secret.

The Joy of being free from so critical an Affair, was of no small Assistance towards speedily re-establishing
the

the Health of Mademoiselle *de Ganderon*, who did not stay long with her Aunt, and insisted upon being placed as a Pensioner with the *Religieuses*. She was conducted to a Convent that was in the Neighbourhood, and the old Gouvernante was sent back into the Province, according to the Orders given by the Marquis *de Ganderon*. My Mother, before her Retreat, did not forget to write to the Count *de Monneville*, by the *Adresse* that they had agreed upon. She sent him Word to repair immediately to the Inn where she had left me, and informed him of what he was to do to procure a Sight of me.

My Father, impatient to hear from his Mistress, had no sooner received her Letter, then he departed and went to the Place which she had directed him to. He desired to speak to the Hostess, and having made himself known to her for the Cavalier who had the greatest Interest in what passed there upon the Night that gave me my Being, he desired her to relate to him all the Circumstances of that Adventure; which she had no sooner finished, than he informed

formed himself whether I was still alive, and where I was, testifying an extream Desire to see me. The Hostess then resuming her Discourse, said to him : Monsieur, I am going to trust a Secret of the greatest Importance to you, and I conjure you most humbly not to disclose it. My Father promised her he would not, and she went on in this Manner :

Madam, your Spouse, when she left this Place recommended to me to take great Care of her Son, and not to suffer him out of my Sight. Whilst I desired the Midwife to find me out a careful Nurse, I kept him in my own Bed the whole Day and the following Night. I know not what Uneasiness I had in my Sleep, but it is too certain that at my Awaking I found one of the Children dead by my Side. Oh! Heavens! cried the Count, trembling, my Son is gone! He lives still, replied the Hostess, listen to me, if you please, without Interruption.

I rose immediately, pursued she ; I bolted the Door, and returning to the
Bed

Bed, I found it was my own Daughter that I had stifled. I had perceived my Husband, who happened to be then absent, had expressed more Affection to me since my being with Child. My Daughter was our first Child; and by her Death I feared to lose the Love of her Father. I took my Resolution without Hesitation. I buried my Child in a Cellar that was never used, and I took your Son in her Place. I deceived my Confidant herself, when she came to inform me that she had found a Nurse. I made a false Confidence to her, and told her that a Person unknown had come secretly and fetched away the little Boy by Orders from his Mother. Thus, Monsieur, added she, this Child whom you see, and who I call my Daughter, is your Son, or at least he is the Lady's who gave me the Charge of him. At these Words the Count took me in his Arms, and gave me a thousand Caresses, moistening my Face with Tears that witnessed the Joy with which his Heart was penetrated.

He remained in the Inn several Days, during which he frequently made the Hostess

Hostess repeat the melancholly Manner of my Birth, and loaded me with his Caresses. At length, when he departed in order to return home, he made this Woman a Present of all the Money he had with him, recommending me strongly to her Care, and went from me with far less Speed than he came.

When he was returned to his Estate, he designed immediately to have instructed his dear Mistress, in covered Terms, of what had passed between the Hostess and him; but a second Letter which he received from my Mother prevented him. She forbid him absolutely to write to her, having been informed at her Entrance into the Convent, that all Letters addressed to the Pensioners were stopped and sent to their Relations. To make use of this Advice, which in effect was not to be neglected, he gave up his Commerce of Letters, with the pleasing Hope that *Mademoiselle de Ganderon* would not long be separated from him.

He came more than once to see me during the first Year, under the Pretext of

of an Affair which he said he had with a neighbouring Gentleman. He remained in the Inn several Days, and whilst he was there he had me continually in his Arms. I was weaned presently, because my young Nurse did not think herself obliged out of Kindness to me, to excuse herself from giving her Husband fresh Marks of her Fertility. I had a rosy Complexion, a healthful Look, and every Body made her their Compliments upon my Beauty.

This good Woman had a second Child who lived no longer than the first, and three Weeks after she was hired to be the Nurse to one of which the Baroness *du Mesnil* was ready to lie in. The Baron was a Nobleman who had a Castle close to the Village, and who about nine or ten Months before had married a young and rich Heiress, with whom he had been in Love for some Time. I went with the Hostess to reside at the Castle *du Mesnil*, and we left the Host her Husband at the Inn. We were scarce arrived at the Baron's, when the Baroness brought into the World

a Daughter, with whom I was brought up.

There happened at that Time a considerable Change in the Castle *de Ganderon*. The Marchioness died, and this Event was the Occasion of the Marquis's taking the Resolution of leaving his Daughter in the Convent, till he found an Opportunity of marrying her according to his Views, that was, to a Gentleman of a considerable Fortune; for he was not a Man that would have accepted of the Count *de Monneville* for a Son-in-Law, whatever Esteem and Friendship he might have for him. My Father and my Mother, who were fully sensible of the Sentiments of Monsieur *de Ganderon* upon that Head, expected their Happiness only from the Favour of Heaven.

Things were in this Situation, when they were informed in the Province that *Spain* had joined itself to the Emperor and the *Dutch* against the *French*. All the Noblesse, eager to fly to the Assistance of their Country, put themselves in Motion. My Father, the Son of a
Man

Man who had acquired so much Reputation in the Field, could not dispense with himself from preparing for it. The Smallness of his Fortune not permitting him to have a splendid Equipage, he departed with a Valet de Chambre and a Footman. He first took Leave of the Marquis, and then took a Turn to the Village where I was, in order to see me. He managed so well, that he had a private Conference with my Nurse. She told him upon what Footing I was at the Castle *du Mesnil*; and she appeared to him to be so attached to me, that he felt himself consoled by it for the Necessity he was under of leaving his Son, perhaps, for a considerable Time. After having made her a Present, to engage her to redouble her Cares for my small Person, he repaired to the Army, or rather to *Rheims*, where they were to assemble under the Command of *Monsieur de Turenne*.

The Marquis *de Bourlemont*, who knew and loved my Father, was extremely pleased to see him again, and received him as a Volunteer in his Regiment. He presented him to the General,

neral, who remembering him, took a Pleasure in occupying his Courage, by employing him in several Sieges that were formed in the Territories of the Marquiss *de Brandenburg*; and which were carried on so vigorously, that that Prince, in alarm at it, retired into the farthest Part of *Germany* and demanded a Neutrality.

The Certitude that the Count had that Valour, would never want a Recompence under such a General as Monsieur *de Turenne*; and the flattering Hope of acquiring so much Glory as might make him appear to the Marquiss *de Gandon* worthy of his Alliance, forced him upon surprizing Actions. 'Tis thus that in all Times, and in all Conditions, Love has been seen to produce noble Actions; and the Desire of pleasing the Sex, has formed many valiant Warriors. The Count *de Monneville*, in an Expedition in which the Marquiss *de Bourlemont* was killed, signalized himself by Actions which you yourselves would have admired, Gentlemen, as much accustomed as you are to Enterprizes of Temerity. But at length the Count
was

was taken Prisoner, and did not recover his Liberty till after the Peace of *Nimeguen*.

Since my Nurse had been the same to the Daughter of the Baron *du Mesnil*, instead of loving me less than before, she seemed to have still more Tenderness for me. The Baron, on his Side extremely satisfied with the Care of this Woman, to testify his Gratitude to her, made me a thousand Caresses, and scarce made any Difference between his own Child and me. He permitted her to call me Sister, and all the Domesticks, after his Example, used us alike. Far from abusing the Civilities they were so good to let me share with *Lucilia*, which was the Name of the Daughter of this Nobleman, I used my utmost Assiduity to gain her Affections; and I succeeded in it so thoroughly, that in our little Sports, she took it ill that I expressed so much Deference for her, and constrain'd her by my Respect.

My pretended Mother, who was no nearer to me than to *Lucilia*, perceiving the Attachment I had for her, propos'd
to

to herself to watch over us. Our Familiarities, tho' innocent, yet they gave her an Alarm; she fear'd lest Chance should discover my Sex, which was yet unknown to myself; and, in this Fear, she never ceased preaching to us of the Duties of Modesty, which made such strong Impressions upon our young Minds, that we concealed ourselves carefully from each other upon the slightest Occasions. In a word, I was continually in her Sight during the Day, and I lay with her in the Night.

Our Love augmented faster than the Number of our Years, and when I recollect some Passages of my Infancy, I conclude that this Passion knows no Age that cannot feel its Power. My Nurse had accustomed me to kiss the Hand of the Baron when he gave me any thing; I observed the same respectful Ceremony with my little Sister, who was so perswaded that I took a Pleasure in it, that when I had been punished, or received any other Chagrin, she would come to me with the greatest Eagerness to give me her Hand to kiss. Thirty Years have not effaced from my Memory

ry a thousand such Trifles, that proved, demonstratively, that our Hearts were formed for each other, and would one Day be united, as in effect they have been since, and are so still, notwithstanding the Cruelty of our Fate, which keeps us asunder.

I passed my earliest Years in this manner in the Castle *du Mesnil*, and five were already gone since my Nurse had heard of the Count *de Monneville*, my Father. She supposed him to be dead, and yet she did not in the least diminish the Kindness she had for me; 'tis true, she had an Interest in it, to deceive her Husband, who looking upon me as his only Child, caressed me as much as if I had been really so; she waited till I was in a more advanced Age before she discovered to him this Error.

One Evening the Baron *du Mesnil* went out of the Castle, according to his Custom, to shoot a Rabbit, and did not return for a considerable Time; when he came, he order'd them not to bring Lights, and went to his Chamber with great Precipitation. Tho' there were no Lights
in

in the Way, yet it was remark'd that he brought in two Fuzils. He put one of them into his Closet, and going out again with the other that Instant, he said that he should not come home to Supper. He did not return till very late, without saying where he had been; and when he was in his Apartment, contrary to his usual Custom, he would not permit his People to undress him; this gave the Domesticks Occasion of Conjecture, and their Imagination had still a greater Scope the next Morning, when they saw some Spots of Blood upon his Linnen, which he had not perceived himself. Every one made his Reflections thereupon, and imagined what they thought proper.

Two Days after this, the Husband of the Nurse came to her in the Castle, and told her in private that he was uneasy, that the Gentleman had not laid at the Inn these two Nights. What Gentleman? replied his Wife with an astonished Look. The Gentleman, return'd he, who came so often to us five or six Years ago. That fine Man, who seem'd to love us so much! — Do'st not thou remem-

remember? — with his Laced Cloaths, who was always giving something to our little Girl?

My Nurse, by this Description, easily knew the Original, and pressed her Husband to tell her why he was uneasy upon that Gentleman's Account. It is because this honest Gentleman, said the Host, came to the Village the Day before Yesterday, and alighted at my Door. He asked after your Health, and after the Child's; and afterwards taking my Fuzil, he went out of the Inn, saying, he would take a Turn in the Wood by the Castle, after which he would return to sup and lodge with me; but I have never seen him since, and yet his Horse is still in my Stable.

You will easily conceive the Impression this Discourse made upon my Nurse. She trembled with Horror, and let herself be prejudiced with the most dreadful Forebodings. She charged her Husband to inform himself privately if no Person had seen this Gentleman, whilst, on her Side, she made the same Enquiries. All their Researches were in vain.

At

At the End of three Days, as the Host had not appeared at the Castle, his Wife, impatient to know whether he had heard any thing of the Gentleman in question, resolved to go to the Village, and discourse with her Husband concerning it. *Lucilia* and I accompanied our Nurse, the Way not being so long but we could go it with Pleasure. I remember it still perfectly well; we walked before her, my Sister and I drawing a little Chariot, which one of the Domesticks had made for us.

When we were in the midst of the Wood, which separates the Castle from the Village, the Nurse made us take a cross Foot-path to shorten the Way; but, after having gone about twenty Paces, two little Dogs that were with us stopped of a sudden, and fell a barking as if they had seen some other Animal. This frightened *Lucilia* and me, and we run to be secure, under the Wing of our Nurse, who advanced towards the Dogs, to see what made them bark, and even howl so dreadfully; she remarked, that a little Heap of Earth newly removed, trod down with the Feet, and covered with

VOL. L. M Bushes,

Bulhes, was the Cause of this Howling.

She was frighten'd in her Turn, and as the Loss of the Count had already filled her Mind with tragical Ideas, some Drops of Blood, which she perceived upon the Stones, increased her Suspicions, which she immediately made haste to impart to her Husband. He did not think them ill-founded, and could not delay the enlightening of them; he came with us into the Wood, under the Pretext of conducting us to the Castle. His Wife shewed him the Place where the Dogs had stopped, and upon which they again began to howl. Then the Host gave some Strokes with a Mattock, and he had not gone above half a Foot deep when he discover'd the Body, and knew the Cloaths of the Gentleman for whom he had been in Pain. The Nurse doubted not but this Murder was the Work of the Baron, and that that Nobleman, whose violent Nature she knew, having met this unfortunate Gentleman shooting near his Castle, had imagined it was an Insult to him, had shot him with his Fusil, and afterwards buried him. The
Host

Host was of the same Opinion; but far from being willing to expose himself to the Resentment of the Baron, by publishing this Discovery, he resolved firmly to keep it secret. He covered the Body again with Earth, and put the Bushes upon it as they were before, whilst his Wife carried back *Lucilia* and I to the Castle. She returned back again immediately, rejoined her Husband, and went with him to the Inn, to shut themselves up, in order to search the Valise of the assassinated Cavalier.

They found no Money; there was nothing in it but Papers, a Memorandum of the Debts he had contracted in *Germany*, some Letters of *Mademoiselle de Ganderon's*, and amongst the rest, that which she had charged my Nurse with, to be delivered to my Father. I have since seen them in the Hands of my Mother, to whom this good Woman, when she found herself dying, restored them, at the same Time informing her of all the Circumstances that I have now related to you.

We once more interrupted *Monneville* in his Part, to deplore the Fate of his Father ; which furnished some of the more serious Privateers with an Opportunity of moralizing upon the Instability of human Happiness ; but the rest having no Taste for moral Reflections, like Men who were prepared for every Event of Life, pressed *Monneville* to continue his History, which he thus resumed :

I lost my Father, perhaps, at a Time when he came to join me never to part from me again. His Death did not alter the Attachment that my Nurse had for me ; all the Change that I found in her Behaviour to me was, that she seemed more melancholly than before, and sometimes, without even speaking to me, she would let fall some Tears as she looked upon me. She often recommended to me to apply myself to Reading, and still more to Writing, without telling me the particular Reason she had that I should write well. I was, however, not long ignorant of it ; for she, being become a Widow in about six Months after the Death of my Father,

one

one Day took me aside, and spoke to me in these Terms:

My dear Child, tho' you are still very young, I find you so reasonable, that I shall no longer delay making you a Confident of what regards you alone, but upon which the Happiness of us both depends. My Husband, who by his Death has left me without Support, hath prevented me from doing what I could have wished for you, and from testifying to how great a Degree I love you. The Protection of the Baron is the only Resource that is left me, and not only you will make me lose that, but you will expose me to receiving the most rigorous Treatment from that Nobleman, if you do not follow the Advice that I shall give you. He will punish you also with me, we must therefore, by a prudent Conduct, preserve his Favour still some Years longer. This obliges me to reveal several Things to you, of which this is the principal: You are not a Girl. I have watched so carefully over you, that I am certain you were ignorant of it till this Moment. 'Tis to conceal your Sex that I desire

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you

you to use your utmost Care; 'tis that important Article that obliges me to place so great a Confidence in you, notwithstanding your Youth.

I have now, pursued she, informed you that you are not a Girl, know also, that I am not your Mother, and that you did not lose a Father in my Husband. I cannot now tell you any farther; if you can preserve the Asylum we have in the Castle, I shall discover to you the Remainder, which it is not yet Time to instruct you of. Consider, my Child, whether you find yourself capable of making use of my Advice. If you are willing to second me, I consent to take Care of you till you can do without me. If, on the contrary, you give me Reason to fear that your Imprudence should draw upon me here some unhappy Affair, I shall be obliged to abandon you.

My Nurse, as she held this Discourse to me, remarked that I was extremely astonished at it; she felt herself struck with a Movement of Compassion; she held out her Arms to me all in Tears;

I leaped about her Neck, and promised her absolutely to do whatever she desired.

She was so little mistaken in the Opinion she had of my Discretion, that from that Time she was obliged to chide me, to constrain me to take any Diversion with *Lucilia*. I was no longer that little Sister who was always ready to laugh and play, the Difference that I began to find there was between her Situation and mine, took from me at once that Gaiety which used to entertain her. The Tenderness I had for her was not diminished, but it became more timid and more respectful.

Three Months after the Death of the Husband of my Nurse, a violent Disease carried off suddenly the Baroness *du Mesnil*. It was no sooner known that the Baron was a Widower, than the greatest Heiresses in the Province were offered to him. The Marquis *de Ganderon* was one of the first that wished his Alliance; on his Side, the Baron *du Mesnil*, (to whom a Gentleman, a Friend of the Marquis's, had spoke of this Affair

as from himself) thought the sole Heir-
ess of *Monsieur de Ganderon* so advan-
tagious a Match, that he immediately
went into his Equipage, together with
their common Friend, to go and de-
mand her in Marriage of the Marquis.
The Negotiation was soon terminated;
these two Noblemen easily agreed upon
every Article, and concluded between
themselves, that they would take a Jour-
ney directly to *Paris*, to see if the Lady
was agreeable to the Baron.

They soon performed this Journey,
along with the Gentleman who had
been the Mediator; and the Person of
Mademoiselle de Ganderon pleased the
Baron infinitely. He had no Occasion
for seeing her twice to become more in
love with her than he had ever been with
his first Lady, and he thought of no-
thing but hastening his second Marriage.
Yet the intended Bride had lost a Part of
her Charms, by the continual Uneasi-
nesses she had been, and still continued
under; for hearing no more of *Monne-
ville*, she supposed he must be dead, and
that Thought gave her an Air of Melan-
cholly,

cholly, which was a Diminution of the Lustre of her Charms.

When the Marquis, her Father, declared to her that he had promised her to the *Baron du Mesnil*, she endeavour'd in vain to beseech him to suffer her to renounce the World; he had no regard to her Intreaty, which he only looked upon as an Effect of the Attempts he supposed the Religieuses had made to seduce her. He represented to her, with an Air of Authority, that such a Husband as the Baron was preferable to a Monastick Life, and that, in a word, it was a Thing resolved upon. Seeing, therefore, that she could only oppose a vain Resistance to the absolute Command of her Father, she disposed herself to obey with Docility. She left the Convent, and let herself be carried in a few Days after from *Paris* to the Castle *de Ganderon*, where the Marriage was celebrated without any Pomp.

Whatever Impatience the Baron had to carry home his new Bride, he had however the Complaisance to stay a considerable Time with *Monfieur de Gan-*

deron; but he at length took Leave of him to repair to the Castle *du Mesnil*, where he entered with the Noise of about a Dozen Muskets, which the Inhabitants of the Village fired, to celebrate the happy Return of their Lord, and the Arrival of the new Baroness. They were obliged to receive and return the Visits of all the neighbouring People of Distinction, which wholly took up *Madame du Mesnil* for eight or ten Days. She had not yet had Leisure to give any Attention to *Lucilia*, but she soon attached herself to her; and, far from treating her with the Severity of a Mother-in-Law, she behaved to her with a Sweetness and Tenderness that ravished the Baron.

The more my Nurse contemplated this young Lady, the more she thought she resembled her who had been disembarassed of a fatiguing Burthen in her Inn; she durst not, however, depend upon her Conjectures, and she propos'd to herself a Method of finding out the Truth of them. As to my Mother, it is certain, she did not in the least recollect my Nurse, nor had any Suspicion of

of her being so, tho' she was not ignorant, that she was in the Village where I had taken my Birth. *Lucilia*, however, by Accident gave her Occasion to think that she was amongst her old Acquaintance, and that her Nurse might perhaps be the very Hostess to whom she had intrusted me. This Circumstance deserves my relating it to you.

The Baroness was one Day in her Closet with a Book, when *Lucilia* entered, followed by my Nurse and me, and run to her, saying, My dear Mamma, will you give my little Friend leave to pay her Compliments to you? Come in, my Child, come in, said the Baroness to me, not thinking she spoke so truly; the Friendship that my Daughter has for you must assure you of mine, approach. I advanced towards her, to make a little Compliment, which I had prepared with the Assistance of my Nurse; but I was confused, without knowing why, and remained silent. It would be ridiculous, perhaps, to attribute to Instinct this Disorder of my Senses, which doubtless was an Effect of my Timidity. The Baroness imagined so, and, to encourage

encourage me to speak, she asked me how old I was, and if I was an only Child. I answered yes; and my Nurse entring into the Discourse, said to her with a feigned Simplicity: Alas! Madam, she will be no richer for it. If my Husband was still alive, she might, perhaps, hope for some small Fortune. We formerly kept an Inn in the Village for several Years, and did not succeed ill in our Business; but I have had the Misfortune to lose him, and were it not for the Favours of Monsieur the Baron, my Daughter and myself would be much to be pitied.

The Nurse as she spoke thus observed the Baroness attentively, to see if that Lady, as she listened to her, would not give some Demonstration that might turn her Doubts into Certitude. My Mother avoided that Snare; no Alteration appeared in her Countenance. With a steady, calm Look, she deplored the Fate of the Hostess, who imagining that she was deceived in the Judgment she had made of the Baroness, ceased to find any Resemblance between her and my Mother.

After

After this Conversation, Madame *du Mesnil*, being left alone in her Closet, admired how she had been able not to betray herself, when she knew the Witness of her Shame. This Thought made her blush and turn pale successively. If the Nurse had seen her then, she would have known what to have depended upon. The Discourse which my Mother had heard, threw her into a profound Reverie. She could not doubt but the Person who had spoke, was the same Hostess to whom she had confided the Care of my Infancy ; but she was far from imagining, that it was her Son whom she had seen under the Habit of a Girl. She judged either that I was dead, or that my Father had taken me out of the Hands of my Nurse to be educated elsewhere. To this Reflection succeeded another. The Count *de Monneville* is no more, said she, since it is so long since I have heard of him. The Father and the Son make me equally unhappy.

It depended upon herself, however, to hear what was become of us both. She need only have discovered herself
to

to the Hostess, whose Discretion she had already tried : But it was impossible for her to bring herself to resolve upon risking this Step. Tho' in her Heart she felt the most violent Desire of knowing our Destiny, yet her Virtue, that secretly reproached her, continually prevented it. The Wife of the Baron *du Mesnil* thought herself obliged to think differently from *Mademoiselle de Ganderon*, and engaged to sacrifice the Dictates of Love and Nature to her Duty ; that if she was unfortunate with the Baron, it might at least be without her deserving it.

She even resolved that the Nurse should leave the Castle, that she might not have continually before her Eyes a Woman, who recalled to her Memory Images which she found it but too difficult to forget. To give her a handsome Dismission, without seeming to have any Interest in it, she engages the Baron to send her back to the Village again to keep an Inn, with a Sum sufficient for her Establishment in that Way of Life, under the Pretext of recompensing her for her Services. *Lucilia*,
who

who had a proper Governess provided for her, saw my Nurse and I leave the Castle with much Regret. I was not less afflicted at our Separation; but the Case was desperate, and there was no Remedy.

The Hostess then began to enter into her former Business. Though she exacted nothing from me but what I could do with great Ease, and recommended to me to apply myself to Writing, being perswaded that with that Resource I could never want Bread; yet I was of the greatest Service to her in her domestick Affairs. I was worth three such Servants as she could keep. But as I advanced in Age I became more melancholly. I already made serious Reflections, and especially one that affected me nearly: This was the Mystery of my Birth; for my Nurse, when she confessed to me that I was not her Son, had not instructed me who was my Father, and I remained in Uncertainty of my Condition.

Sometimes, imagining that she had said enough for me to conceive an advantageous

vantageous Opinion of my Family, I had the Vanity to believe myself of Noble Blood ; and, in the haughty Emotions that these flattering Thoughts inspired me with, I burn'd with Desire to be at *Paris*, cloathed in a Manner suitable to my Sex, and to the Nobility that my Imagination had given to me. Whither was not I hurried away by the Chimera's that my Mind was continually forming? I flattered myself that I should no sooner arrive at that City, but I should meet with a Person of Distinction who would acknowledge me for his Son, and that this Acknowledgment would be attended with the most perfect Felicity. 'Tis true, these agreeable Ideas sometimes gave place to others which lowered my pleasing Expectations. I represented to myself, that a Boy of Twelve or Thirteen, without Friends and without Acquaintance, would be very much at a loss what to do with himself in *Paris* ; but Hope, still stronger than my Fears, always brought me back to the Wish of being able to try my Fortune in that great City.

One Day there passed by the Village a *Financier*, who stopped at our Inn. He had a handsome Equipage, and a great Number of Attendants. We prepared him a Dinner in the most handsome Manner we could ; and when the Expence was to be cast up, I took a Pen and Ink and drew up the Reckoning with an Ease that surprized him. He praised my Writing ; after that he considered me with some Attention, and finding a Sprightliness in my Look, with some Beauty, he asked me several Questions. I answered them in a Manner that amazed him. 'Tis a Pity, said he to me, that so handsome a Girl as you are, should be buried in a Village. Oh ! really, Monsieur, replied I, I am sorry for it enough ; but what would you have me do ? I should be glad to be with some good Lady ; I am sure that I should serve her so well that she would love me, and make my little Fortune. If you wish, returned he, to be placed in that Manner, you need only speak. I will bring you into my own Family. I have a Relation of an affable Temper, and an excellent Character, you will be very happy with her. I offer to engage
her

her to take you ; and I can assure you, that she will take upon herself the Care of settling you advantageously.

I accepted the Offers of the *Financier*, with Protestations of Gratitude, which were accompanied by the Thanks of the Hostess. Make your Reflections upon it, you and your Mother, said he to me, I shall come by this Village again in a Fortnight. If you are then in the same Disposition, and that you make no Difficulty of trusting to the Word of a Man of Honour, whom indeed you do not know, but whose Probity I hope is writ in his Face, I will carry you to *Paris* in my Equipage, and behave to you as if you was my own Child. To this I made him no Answer but a profound Reverence ; and he, returning my Respect, went into his Coach, after having bid us adieu till his Return.

When he was departed, my Nurse asked me if I had Resolution enough to go to *Paris* with this Gentleman. Why not ? replied I ; he appears an honest Man. Perhaps he may do what he has promised for me ; and when
once

once I am with a Lady, I will seek out for some Place suitable to young Men, and I don't think but I shall be fortunate enough to find one. The Hostess was not very sorry to see me disposed to follow the *Financier*. She even drew a good Omen from it of my future Fortune; and judging that it was now Time to give myself up to the Adventures that my Stars reserved for me, she very faintly opposed my Design.

Before it was to be put in Execution, I went to pay a Visit to *Lucilia*. I took care not to speak to her of our approaching Separation; but the Idea of it that continually occur'd to me in our Conversation, in spite of myself, drew frequent Sighs from me. I even could not forbear shedding some Tears. *Lucilia* was moved with it, and attributing it to the Chagrin I had at not seeing her so often as I desired,—Comfort yourself, my dear Sister, said she embracing me, we shall not always live at a Distance from each other. The Time draws near when I am to be placed in a Convent, I must have a Person with me, and will contrive it so that you shall
be

be chosen, and then our Days and our Nights shall be passed together.

How sensible was I of this Mark of Tenderneſs! Adieu the Project of my Journey to *Paris*, adieu the *Financier*. All the Thoughts of Fortune, that till then had amused me ſo agreeably, did not hold out one Moment againſt the flattering Hopes that my dear *Lucilia* gave me; and I quitted her, taſting in Idea all the Pleaſures of that happy Time that ſhe had given me a Proſpect of.

For two Days my Mind was ſo filled with this charming Converſation, that I was far from wiſhing for the Return of the *Financier*; my Nurse perceived it, and aſked me why I appeared ſo diſguſted with my Journey to *Paris*. I told her frankly the Occaſion of it. Upon which, like a Woman of good Senſe, ſhe repreſented to me, how much I was in the wrong to attach myſelf to *Lucilia* with ſuch Exceſs; that I could not poſſibly conceal my Sex much longer, and that, in ſpite of my Precaution, my Features, my Voice, my Beard, all
would

would betray me ; and that, if I was so unhappy and so imprudent as to accompany the Daughter of the Baron to the Convent, I should inevitably ruin her Reputation, and plunge myself into the most dreadful Abyfs. In fine, she said so many Things to me, to bring me to Reason, that tho' I could not cease to love *Lucilia*, yet I was sensible of the Necessity of parting from her.

The Arrival of the *Financier* finished the determining me to sacrifice my Love. He was charmed to find me still in the same Sentiments that he had left me. The Hostess, on her Side, was very glad to send me at a Distance from the Castle *du Mesnil* ; being persuaded, that if I remained in the Country, as soon as my Sex was made known, the scandalous Part of the World would not spare *Lucilia*, with whom I had been thus brought up in the Habit of a Girl. The *Financier*, therefore, had no Opposition to surmount for my Departure, which was fixed to be the next Morning before Day-break. I passed some Part of the Night in taking Measures with my Nurse, in what manner we should hear
from

from each other. I afterwards put on my best Habit, and made a Bundle of all my Linnen. The Hour of my Departure at length being come, I embraced this good Woman, whom Gratitude had rendered so dear to me. We both wept excessively, feeling a sincere Sorrow at losing each other, perhaps for ever, and yet being resolved to part. The *Financier*, my Protector, after having again protested to the Hostess, that she might be easy upon my Account, (whom he only conveyed to *Paris*, he said, in order to place me in a Situation that might enable me to make the Remainder of my Mother's Life fortunate and happy) he took me into the Coach with him, and we left the Village without being seen by any Person in it.

I had no Reason to complain of his Behaviour on the Road; all his Discourse was reserved; there did not escape him any Action, or any Gesture, that I could draw the least ill Omen from. He seemed even to forbid his Eyes the Liberty of dwelling upon me. 'Tis true, indeed, I was but a Child;
but

but there are Men who won't refuse their Attention to a Female, tho' she had but just quitted her Leading-Strings; neither was my *Financier* so discreet as he appeared to be. As to the rest, he was a Man of a tollerable Figure, and not above five and thirty.

Upon our Entrance into *Paris*, I was surprized to see my Conductor stopped at a Barrier, by five or six sorry-looking Clerks, to whom he was obliged to give the Keys of a Valise, which was behind the Coach, and which, notwithstanding this, they did not presume to open when he had condescended to inform them of his Name and Quality. Tho' he had advertised me before that he should not carry me to his House, yet I could not help being embarrassed when I saw him send away his People and his Equipage, and take me with him in a wretched Hackney-Coach, whose shattered Aspect seem'd to promise me no Good. I fear'd lest his Intention should be to convey me to some Place; I don't say, that was dishonest, for I knew not then that there was any such, but to
some

some Place that would be disagreeable to me.

We alighted in the *Rue St. Honore*, at the Door of a House, of which he was the Proprietor, and in which there dwelt a Widow, who had formerly been Woman to his Mother, and whom his Father had hastily married to his Steward. That Domestick, to pay himself for his Complaisance, had taken such Care of his Perquisites, that at his Death his Widow, who was his second Wife, was left excessively rich. My Protector, to whom this good Lady was sometimes very serviceable, reposed an entire Confidence in her; he put me into her Hands, telling her, that I was an Orphan Daughter to one of his Tenants; and that perceiving I had a great Share of Sense, he designed to have me educated in a Convent, and to give me Masters there, in order to teach me every thing that was necessary for a young Woman to know. He charged her with the Care of chusing the Monastery, and promised her, that the next Day he would send her Money to equip me properly, and to
buy

buy every Thing that would be necessary for me in the Convent.

After this he withdrew, and I remained with the Widow, who did not fail to sound me ; as she knew the *Financier* better than I did, she believed no more than she thought proper of what he had said to her, and asked me a thousand Questions, to judge by my Answers what she ought to think of me. The best was, that instead of confessing frankly in what manner, and upon what Footing I came to *Paris*, I disguised the Truth, to support what the *Financier* had said, as much as any Adventurer could have done who had acted in Concert with him.

The following Day he kept his Promise : He sent a Sum of Money, which most certainly was not all employed in equipping me, tho' he sent Word to the Widow that his Intention was, that I should have every Thing handsome, and that I should be introduced to the Religiouses as the Daughter of a Gentleman in the Provinces ; the Widow took care to gain about half for her Trouble of

laying out the rest. She immediately set her People to Work, and I was served with so much Expedition, that in about five or six Days I entered the Convent without seeing my Protector again, who doubtless was otherwise employed, or rather looked upon me as a Fruit which he must wait the ripening of.

I had imagined that the young Ladies, who were brought up in this House, would take a Pleasure in seeing and conversing with me, upon Account of my being a new Comer; but I was soon undeceived. Having learned that I was the Daughter of a Country Gentlemen not much known, they immediately neglected me, and I was reduced to the Company of those Religieuses who were charged with the Care of the Pensioners. I gave myself no great Uneasiness about it, and applying myself wholly to study the Lessons that were alternately given me by a Musick-Master and a Writing-Master, I made so surprizing a Progress in both these Sciences, that in less than six Months the whole Discourse of the Convent was upon my Writing, and my Taste for Musick. This by degrees engaged

gaged the elder Pensioners to humanize themselves towards me, and procured me an Entrance into their Apartments.

Are not you surprized, Gentlemen, at the Conduct of the *Financier* towards me? He had not yet made me a Visit since I had been in this House. But, in return, the Widow, his Agent, came to see me frequently, and our whole Conversation was of him. To hear her, he was the most honest, and the most generous Man that the King had in the Affairs of his Revenues. She asked me, from himself, if there was any thing that I wanted; and when he charged her with ten Pistoles for me, she delivered four of them very faithfully. On my Side, for a Novice, I did not play my Part ill with her. I had the Policy to complain, that my Protector did not add, to the other Favour heaped upon me, that of honouring me with a Visit. Have Patience, my dear, said the obliging Widow to me, upon that Head; he will soon be at the Grate to tell you himself, why he has till now deprived himself of that Pleasure.

In effect, he did not fail to do so; he appeared one Day in the Parlour, with the Widow of the Steward. He applauded me first upon the Facility with which I learned every thing that was taught me, and then he told me, that he perceived at the first Sight of me, that I should soon become a most accomplished Woman; and this it was, added he, which prevented my following the Design of putting you into the Service of a Lady. You seem to me rather to be born to be served, and Heaven will not permit you to be so displaced. No, my dear Child, it shall be your own Fault if you don't possess a shining Fortune. You must attach yourself to a Man of Fortune and Condition who loves you; in a word, to me. This good Friend, before whom I offer you my Heart, knows that I have only honourable Views upon you; if I had any other, I should not have conducted myself in this manner. Instead of letting your Virtue take Root in a House where you see only good Examples, I would have brought you up in the Pleasures of the World, I would have carried you continually to publick Places,

the Chevalier de Beauchene. 269

Places, and never quitted you till I had triumphed over your Innocence.

You will imagine, Gentlemen, that the *Financier* did not stop here. He said a thousand other Things to prejudice me in his Favour; and afterwards wishing to know whether I had any Disposition to return the Sentiments he expressed to me, he asked me, with an Air of Tenderness, whether he might hope that I should have no Repugnance to unite my Destiny to his. I made answer, that I was too much penetrated with his Goodness to me, to be capable of paying it with Ingratitude. He appeared transported with Joy at these Words, and from thence took Occasion to press me to compleat his Happiness. After which, leaving me with his Agent, he withdrew, in order, he said, to prepare that Moment every Thing for the Celebration of our Marriage.

The Widow, as she had agreed upon with the Protector, wished me Joy upon the Importance of my Conquest, and upon the shining Figure that I should make in the World, when I was the happy

Partner of so rich a *Financier*, who not three Days before had refused for my Sake a Woman of Quality, who had been proposed to him. She afterwards advised me to sooth him in every Thing, and told me, as she was going, that on her Side she would use her utmost Efforts to engage him to terminate immediately an Affair of so much Importance to me. I saw plainly, after this Conversation, that I drew near the Conclusion of the Play, and that by Consequence I must, without Delay, think of some Expedient that might deliver me from the Embarrass I was in. For, in fine, I represented to myself, that if I had the Temerity to carry Things to the last Extremity, the Protector might revenge himself cruelly for the Deceit that I had put upon him.

To deliver myself from this Fear, which seemed but too well founded, I reflected Day and Night in what manner I could escape from the Convent; to this end I examined all the Windows and all the Walls of the House, but my Examination concluded only in making me lose all Hopes of escaping. I was in
this

this disagreeable Situation when we received a new Pensioner. She was a young Woman turn'd of Twenty, who would not have been received, but that her Mother was related to the Superior. In that House they would not accept of any of those young Persons, who have no other Vocation for a Retreat than the absolute Will of their Parents, and who often seclude them from the World only to place their staggering Virtue behind a Rampart of Bolts and Grates.

Our new Companion was named *Camilla*; I went into her Apartment as it was furnishing, and I entered into the Conversation she was in with two or three others of the Pensioners. I informed them of a Letter I had received, and by which I was told, that in four Days I should be taken from the Convent to be married. As I told them this News with a melancholly Look, they could not forbear saying to me with a Smile, that if they were in my Place, and received such a Letter, it would be no Affliction to them. *Camilla* made me several Questions upon my Departure; she asked me, if my Furniture was to be

fetched in a Cart, or by a Porter, and in what Street I was to live.

She had her Reasons for questioning me thus: My dear, said she to me one Evening, taking me by the Arm as we came from Prayers, I have something of the greatest Consequence to communicate to you. Don't fall asleep so soon as usual, that you may open your Door to me, or rather don't shut it. I was in no Danger of falling asleep, nor even of going to Bed. I was too much in Pain to know what she had to say to me, and tormenting my Head to divine it, Does she design, said I, to charge me with some Letter of Gallantry, or has not she some Suspicion of my Sex? These gay Creatures that know the World have Eyes much more penetrating than the good Religieuses. *Camilla* surprized me as I was in this last Thought, and embraced me with a Transport, which I imagined too violent to be bestowed upon one of the same Sex.

My Repose and the Happiness of my Life are in your Hands, said she to me: I must quit this House, which is to me
the

the dreadfullest of Captivities, I shall perhaps never find so favourable an Opportunity as you may procure me, if you are as much disposed to do me a Pleasure as I should be to oblige you in the same Conjunction. I promised her to do any thing for her that depended upon me; and upon that, having desired me to listen to her with Attention, she resumed her Discourse in the following manner :

You cannot be ignorant how disagreeable it is to a young Person, to have a Mother who imagines herself still handsome, who endeavours to pass for young, and is, in short, a compleat Coquette. This is a Misfortune that I have felt in all its Circumstances. You saw this young and handsome Mother the Day that she came to deliver me up to the Superior, to free herself from a disagreeable Rival; if you observed her, you must confess that she is much in the wrong to pretend to be agreeable. Could you think, that at her Age, and with her mean Look, she could imagine that she has Reason to complain when she has not three or four Adorers at her Toilet? and would you

believe that she never wants idle People who are willing to act that foolish Part? This is because, since the Death of my Father, she enjoys a large Revenue, which she employs in entertaining them. She keeps an elegant Table, and plays high; is it possible then that she can ever want the Men?

During three or four Years, pursued she, whilst this beauteous Mamma feared me less than she did her Woman, whose Place I supplied at her Toilet, I was ashamed to hear the stupid Things that were said to her by those Adorers of the Charms of her Table. How many wretched Compliments did they make her swallow like Nectar and Ambrosia! Self-Love must render a Coquet senseless, or she would be conscious of the Affront of such gross, ill-placed Flattery. If any of these Gentlemen, who had a better Taste or less Dissimulation than the rest, attempted to address the least obliging Speech to me, I was a Week before I appeared again at Table; my Mother banished me from her Sight by the Title of a little Girl; she would willingly have whipped me before the

the

the whole World, the better to perswade them that I was but a Child.

As soon as I perceived the Cause of this Ill-treatment that I received from her, I resolved, in order to revenge myself, to take upon my Account the Assiduities of some young People, whose Eyes explained themselves to mine with great Energy. I made them remark that I understood them, by' applauding them with a Smile, when they seasoned with some ironical Gesture the Praises they lavished upon my Mother, or when they hinted to me, by some Sign, that the gallant Things they said to her were addressed to me.

A young Count, extremely handsome, declared to me by several Letters equally passionate and sprightly, that I had inspired him with a violent Love. I yielded to the Pleasure of believing him sincere, and the Pride of taking him from a jealous Mother. As soon as our Intelligence was formed, the Count, to render it more secret, affected to appear more assiduous to my Rival than he had ever been before. She was
so

so charmed with it, that fixing her whole Attention upon him alone, she chose him for the Depository of her Secrets. About a Month ago, she made him a Confidante of the Design she had to put me in a Convent, since I refused an Offer that was too good for me. This Offer was an old Fool of a Relation, whom I detested. She repeated to me incessantly, that he loved me to Distraction, and that he demanded nothing with me ; as if I had given nothing to an old Wretch, when I had sacrificed my Youth and Beauty to him:

If the Count was stunn'd with the Project that my Mother had formed of shutting me up in a Monastery, what became of him when she added, that to prove the Esteem and Affection she had conceived for him, she had resolved to offer him her Hand, with those Advantages that would render his Fate worthy of Envy ? In the Confusion that this Discourse threw him into, he was very near discovering his Sentiments ; however, he had the Strength to constrain himself, and meeting me by accident alone, he whispered to me : Every
thing

thing is disposing for a double Marriage to be celebrated speedily, I to your Mother, and you to a Convent.

In effect, two Days after I was brought to this House. The Count, who cannot now be ignorant of it, is doubtless in Despair. He is passionate, he has been with my Mother, and I doubt not in the least, but he has spoke to her in very unreserved Terms. All this must fall upon me. She came this Morning with a furious Air to the Convent, to give her Orders that I should not be suffered to see any Body that came. This Command, which cuts off all Communication between the Count and me, prevents us from taking Measures for our meeting again. I am satisfied that he resolves to carry me off; but I know not by what Methods he can pretend to succeed in it. On my Side, I also exercise my Imagination upon the same Subject; and if I do not deceive myself, you may assist me to leave this Place without Disturbance.

I promised *Camilla* to contribute to her Evasion, provided she would give me

me her Word that in return she would lend me her Assistance to free me from the Hands of those who were to fetch me from the Convent. I only made a Mystery of my Sex, not thinking it proper then to discover it to her. She appeared transported to find me in the same Disposition with herself. Well then, said I to her, let me know what Service you expect from me. I have imagined, replied she, that the Day of your leaving this House may become the last of my Slavery. You see this Nich, added she, pointing to a small Mahogany Chest, which amongst other little Effects had been bought to furnish my Chamber, I will shut myself up in it the Day that you remove, you shall let me be carried to the Place where you are to be conducted, and from thence I will escape to the Count.

I applauded this marvellous Invention, not being of an Age to remark the Extravagance of it, and we agreed to attempt the Adventure. This Stragem however was not made use of, and my Affairs in a Moment changed their Appearance. My Widow came
the

the next Day to see me, and appeared in such Emotion, that I easily judged she had something extraordinary to inform me of. I was not mistaken in my Conjecture: My dear Child, said she to me, what I have to declare to you will surprize you extremely. Your Protector was arrested Yesterday in the Evening in the King's Name, and conveyed to the *Bastile*. I know not what Crime he is guilty of; but it is said he is a lost Man. However that may be, I come to assure you that I will not abandon you. I will be a Mother to you, and give you continual Marks of the Friendship I have for you. I shall come To-morrow to pay your Pension, and to fetch you from hence, and carry you home with me, where we may live peaceably together, till we see whether your Protector can retrieve his Affairs, as it is possible he may do, notwithstanding what is said.

This News gave me a secret Joy. I was transported to find myself disembarassed for ever from my *Financier*, and being perswaded that I could escape when I pleased from the Widow, I accepted

cepted the Asylum which she presented to me so very generously, as I imagined. Before she came to fetch me, I had another Conversation with *Camilla*, whom I informed of the Change that had happened in my Affairs, by the happy Misfortune of the *Financier*. She made me her Compliments upon it, and told me, that on her Side she had received a Letter from the Count ; he got it conveyed to me, added she, by a Servant whom he gained, and who alone has the Permission of speaking to me from my Mother. He sends me Word that he has formed a Project for my Escape, which he shall communicate to me shortly, and the Success of which he assures me is infallible.

I testified to *Camilla*, in my Turn, the Share I took in the Hopes that her Lover gave her of snatching her soon from a Retreat that was so displeasing to her. After which, having embraced each other several times, we parted, each taken up with her own little Affairs. At length the Widow came according to her Promise to pay my Pension, and fetch away my small Effects,
and

and having taken me with her into a *Carose de Kernise*, she carried me to her House, where I supp'd with a well-dress'd elderly Man. There was also at Table a young Lady who boarded with the Widow, and for whom the old Man seemed to express great Affection. He had an Air of Gallantry and good Breeding, which notwithstanding his Age rendered him passable. Between Eleven and Twelve he withdrew. When he was retired, the Widow said to me, My dear Child, I share my Bed with my Boarder. I desire you for this Night only to lye with *Marianne*; To-morrow I will have the Bed put up for you that you had in the Convent.

Marianne was a Chamber-maid, whom the Widow had lately taken into her Service, with a modest Behaviour, a prudent and reserved Air; she had Youth and Wit, and did not want for Beauty. We passed a Part of the Night in conversing about the Convent I had been in. Whilst I related to her the innocent Manner in which I lived there, she sigh'd several times, and told me, it would have been happy for me if I had been there still.

still. She repeated this so often to me, that I had the Curiosity at last to ask her the Reason of it, not comprehending why she pity'd me for being in the World. It is, replied she, because you will be employed here very differently. If I durst tell you all that I think there-upon, you would see it is not without Cause that I deplore your Fate. For Heaven's Sake speak more clearly to me, said I to her, you terrify me.

Promise me then, replied she, that you will keep my Secret, and I will conceal nothing from you. I protested to her that she might depend upon my Discretion. Well then, said she, know that you are here in a House where your Innocence runs the greatest of Hazards, out of Compassion I am willing to advertise you of it. The Lady whom you have seen is the Mistress of the old *Maltotier* *, with whom you supp'd. He comes to see her almost every Night, and Madam shares with her in the Profits of her Gallantry. Don't imagine that you was taken out of the Convent with

* *Maltotier* is one who farms the Taxes, or other Parts of the Revenue.

with any other View than that of procuring you some other rich Gallant in the Place of the *Financier*, who has been put into the *Bastile*, and who was upon the Point of deceiving you by a false Marriage. I have been informed of all this by the Cook, who loves me. I am searching out privately for another Service, not being of a Humour to be in the least pleased with this.

I returned my Thanks to *Marianne* for having instructed me in all these Particularities, and out of Gratitude I discovered my Sex to her. This Confidence gave her Pleasure, and seeing me free from the Danger she had dreaded for me, willingly lent her Assistance to the Design I had of changing my Petticoats into Breeches. I have, said she to me, a Brother who is a Broker, Tomorrow early I will go and instruct him. I will return immediately here to take you, and I will conduct you to him, where I will leave you. I desire no more of you, replied I; as soon as I am at your Brother's I shall think myself at the Height of all my Wishes. A
Broker

Broker, at this instant, is the most necessary Man upon Earth to me.

The next Morning, in short, *Marianne* went out at the Break of Day, and after having explained the Mystery to her Brother, came to me again in a Hackney-Coach, which she ordered to stop at the Widow's Door. During that Time I made a Packet of my Cloaths and my Linnen, which *Marianne* and I taking with us in the Coach, we drove to the House of the Broker, where I was soon metamorphos'd into a Boy. All my female Equipage, some Part of which was magnificent, were sold upon the Spot, and with the Money that arose from them I was very handsomly equipped as a Man from Head to Foot. How pleased was I with myself, in this long-wish'd-for Form! A new Knight of *Malta* is not more vain of his Cross, nor a new Bishop of his Mitre, than I was of my Breeches. At length I departed from the Broker's, who having himself hired me ready-furnish'd Lodgings, conducted me to them, and recommended me strongly to the Host.

Behold

Behold me now at sixteen, abandoned to my own Conduct, and possessing, for my whole Estate, a compleat Suit, with a few Shirts, and about twenty Pistoles, which I had received from the *Financier* during my Residence in the Convent. My Host informed me of a Tavern, where, without being at much Expence, I might eat tollerably well. I went there constantly to Dinner and Supper, and I observed that nobody came there that was not very well dressed. Young People very easily make Acquaintances; amongst the rest I got an Intimacy with a Cavalier of an agreeable Figure, older than myself by several Years, and the Devil of a *Petit Maitre*, which was exactly to my Taste. He was called Monsieur the Marquis, and was in reality a Man of Condition.

In the mean Time, by living at the Tavern, and wandering about in *Paris*, my Finances sunk visibly, and representing to myself almost every Hour the Embarrass I should be in when I had exhausted my last Pistole, I appeared sometimes so melancholly and thoughtful, that the Marquis perceived it, and
asked

asked me the Occasion of it. I did not conceal it from him, and I confessed to him that I should have great Obligations to any Man who would procure me a good Place in an Office. I can do your Business, said the Marquis to me ; I know a *Partisan** to whom I will speak of you, and I am certain that, out of Consideration for me, he will do you Service.

The Marquis did not boast of an Interest which he had not ; he writ in my Favour to one who wished to be thought of his Family, and who was interested in three or four different Companies, and the Word of my dear Cousin, repeated in three or four Places of the Letter, did Wonders. As I was the Bearer of the Note, the *Partisan* received me graciously, contrary to the Custom of those Gentlemen, who give their Clerks a very magisterial Reception, and he had no sooner seen my Writing than he appointed me to be under him, telling me, that he would form my Hand and my Mind himself.

He

* *Partisan* is the same as *Maltotier*.

He entered me immediately into the common Affairs, so that in about six Months he trusted the Care of them wholly to me. In regard to what he called the King's Affairs he was more reserved. These were Secrets to all but those interested in them. Sometimes when I came home I brought him Compliments from his Cousin the Marquis, tho' I had not seen him, he having ceased to keep up a Commerce with me. This put him into so good a Humour, that he run out into Discourses without End. In these Overflowings of his Heart he used to initiate me into the secret Mysteries of his Profession. By his Account an Affair was not extraordinary when it brought in only *Cent. per Cent.*

If I had been less useful to him he might have placed me where I might have made my Fortune; but unfortunately for me, he had accustomed himself to meddle only with great Affairs, and abandoned the small ones to my Care. How many Posts did I see him give to People he scarce knew; he was so obliging, that he did a Service to
whoever

whoever was presented to him, and so disinterested, that he declared he would neither receive Money nor Presents from any Person, saying, that he was well satisfied with being able to do his Duty. His Lady, indeed, interpreted this Duty in her own Manner, and made a proper Use of every thing; according to the Places where the Clerks were sent, whom her Husband procured Employments for, she desired them to perform Commissions for her, which produced Plenty and Abundance in her Family, and the poor Commissioners, out of Gratitude and out of Timidity, never presumed to speak of what they had laid out.

As soon as she knew the Place where these young Bloodsuckers went to learn their Trade of oppressing the People, she immediately informed herself of the Commerce of the Place, and what the Ground or the Industry of the Inhabitants produced; Wine, Cyder, Sweetmeats, Game, Butter, and Cheeses of all Sorts were shower'd into the House continually. But the Ignorance of a new-made Clerk disordered all this Manage-

nagement of the Lady's. A young Man had obtained a Post at *St. Valery*, in *Picardy*; the Patroness knew that not far from thence they made very celebrated dry Biscuits, which were known by the Name of Biscuits of *Abbeville*, she writ immediately to the young Man, to desire him to send her a Box of them, telling him, that her Husband loved them excessively, and designed to make some Presents of them. You will let me know the Price, added she, in her Letter, that it may be returned you immediately.

The too punctual Clerk sent the Biscuits, and let her know that the Price was ten Pistoles, which he would pay the Dealer as soon as he had received the Money from her, either by a Bill of Exchange, or as she thought proper. This Answer displeas'd the Lady, who termed it Stupidity and Ingratitude, and to teach this Novice what the Pigmyes of the Finances owe to those interested in the Affairs of the King, she got him immediately recalled, and his Place was given to another. This unfortunate Clerk, who had only had a View of the

Land of Plenty from the Mountain, not having had Time to repair his Fault, could not pay the Biscuit-Maker; but he deliver'd him the Letter by which he had been commission'd to buy them, and instructed him of the Name and Habitation of the *Maltotier* at *Paris*. The Biscuit-Maker departs for that City, addresses himself directly to the *Partisan*, and demands the Payment of his Biscuits. The *Financier* sets him at Defiance, and even calls him a Rogue. What does the Dealer? He proves the sending of the Box addressed to the *Partisan*, and its being received in his Name. In fine, he makes so many Enquiries, that he discovers the very Shop where ten Pistoles were paid down to the *Maltotier's* Lady for the individual Biscuits.

This was the Rock upon which struck that Reputation of Generosity which the *Financier* had acquired, and the malicious World believed him an Accomplice in the Behaviour of his Wife. What was still more vexatious for him was, that instead of paying the Dealer to avoid all Disturbance, he let himself be sued for it, and gave all *Paris* an Amusement

ment at his Expence ; for he could not appear in the Streets, without hearing the Boys call after him *Biscuits of Abbeville.*

He bought at that Time * a Country House near *Paris*, where he resided almost continually, with his Wife and his Daughter, as if they had been afraid to shew themselves in that City since the History of the Biscuits. During his Absence I was charged with the Care of his Affairs, and he had an entire Confidence in me. On my Side, being more frequently in a Fencing-School or the publick Walks than in my Office, I was obliged to lay the Burthen upon my Deputy Clerk ; a Clerk, who indeed began to enter into some of the Functions of one, but without ceasing to serve us at Table, and to exercise at Leisure Hours the Post of a Footman, till another should come to relieve him. How many rich *Financiers* have made their first Essay in the same manner!

We went, my Companion and myself, every *Saturday* Evening into the

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Country, and returned early on *Monday Morning*. We passed all the Holidays thus, not to set on the Pot in two Places without Necessity. We were always well received, because there was no Amusement nor Gaiety in the House but when we were there. As they did not stand upon Forms in the Country, the Chamber-Maid and the Footman-Clerk eat with us at the Master's Table. This by degrees render'd him less timid, or rather more enterprizing; another in his Place would have been satisfied with the Cook, or at most only raised his Thoughts to the Chamber-Maid; but he, more ambitious, formed a Design of being the Favourite of the Daughter of his Master, and acquired a legitimate Right of enriching himself at the Expence of the Publick, by being allied to the Blood of an opulent *Maltotier*.

His Conquest indeed would have been more glorious if he had had any Rivals to dispute it with, and that the Place he had endeavoured to attack had been more strongly fortified. The *Financier* and his Spouse, incapable of any other Care than that of enriching themselves,
or

or else perswaded that when a Woman will not guard herself, it would be in vain, like *Aerifius*, to be at the Expence of a Tower of Brass, lest their Daughter a despotick Power over her own Charms. 'Tis true, she had so small a Share of them, that it seemed only necessary for her to shew herself, and her Person must have disgusted the most eager Gallant. As to me, I thought her so redoubtable, that I could only have a very barren Gratitude for a thousand tender Kindnesses that she expressed for me. When I was at the Expence of saying some complaisant Thing to her, which very seldom happen'd to me, I got away from her immediately, that she might not perceive the Violence I had done myself in it.

She made so many useless Advances to please me, that at length she was tired of attempting it; and taking up with the serviceable Clerk, who shewed her his Passion plainly by his Looks, she opposed no Cloud to the Embraces of this new *Ixion*. Whilst he, less delicate than me, possessed in Tranquility the Favours I had disdained, Chance en-

gaged me in an Adventure very proper to teach a Scholar in Gallantry the first Elements of Libertinism.

I had contrived one Evening to disguise myself in a *Spanish* Dress to go to a Masquerade. This Dress suited extremely well to the Fineness of my Shape, and I was so perswaded that I might pass for a very pretty Fellow, that I affected not to put on my Masque till I was in the Ball-Room. As soon as I appeared there, some Ladies began to make Advances to me, I return'd them, and for a Novice in the World, I did not play my Part ill; my first Essay was a Master-piece, I forced one of the most splendid Masques in the Assembly to sacrifice to the *Spanish* Idol. This was a Lady dressed like an *Amazon*, and who had the Air of a Princess; she fixed her Eyes upon me directly, and as she passed by me pressed my Hand. I judged that, but for some *Argus* that accompanied her, she would not perhaps have stopped there, and I resolved to follow her without Reserve. She perceived it, and I thought I remarked that she had an eager Desire to speak to me,

me, and I was not mistaken. Whilst a Man who accompanied her was gone to fetch some Oranges and Biscuits, she approached me hastily, and told me without any other Introduction, that if I was discreet and capable of an Attachment, I need only tell her my Name, and my *Adresse*, which I did not fail to do with great Eagerness. At the same Time I would have kissed her Hand, which she held out out to me; but she drew it back hastily, fearing, I presume, that her jealous Guardian might see that Action, and in a Moment after she disappeared from the Ball-room.

It is impossible to imagine with what Impatience, and with what Agitation I passed the two following Days. I durst not go out for fear of not being at home at the Arrival of the *Mercury* of my Goddess. I staid in my Office till it was Play-time. Then I went to the Play, or to the Opera, in hopes of meeting there with the Person that I sought for, as if I should know her again when I had only seen her in a Masque. I examined all the Ladies who appeared in the Boxes, and I imagined sometimes

that amongst the Marchionesses, and the Dutcheffes, I had found out the Nymph who had seized upon my Heart. I hoped at least that by shewing myself upon the Stage I should make her remark me, and oblige her to deliver me from my Inquietude. However, notwithstanding the good Opinion I had of my own Merit, I could not help thinking sometimes that my Amazon, very different from that of *Alexander*, perhaps only designed to make a Ridicule of the *Spaniard*, by forcing him to fight for a Shadow.

I had been six Days in this violent Situation, when a good old Woman, as early a Riser, though not so beautiful, as the Goddess *Aurora*, had me awakened to inform me that I must follow her where she had Orders to conduct me. I desired the old Woman to give me Time to dress myself, and when that was done, behold us both that Instant in the Street. I would have asked her some Questions relating to her Mistress : Say nothing to me, Monsieur, said she, and suffer me to go before you. I obeyed, for fear of losing, perhaps

haps by my Indiscretion, a shining Fortune. By the Way, attentive to every Step of my Conductress, every time that I saw her near a large Hôtel, I imagined she was going to enter there, and I was constantly mistaken. She stopped before a House, which not agreeing with the Idea I had formed of my Amazon, did not appear to me proper to be her Residence. I rather chose to believe, that it was a House hired to receive me more secretly. It was nevertheless there that she usually inhabited, and the Magnificence that reigned within, soon made me forget the mean Appearance it had without.

I crossed through three or four Antichambers of an Apartment magnificently furnished; from whence I passed into one where the Cloth was still layed, and a Confusion of Bottles and Glasses made me judge that the Night had been passed at Table. From thence I was introduced into a Cabinet, where I entered trembling; but my Embarrass was sufficiently justified by the Novelty of my acting the Part of a Favourite of the Lady's. My Princess judging, by

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my timid and confused Look, that I stood in need of being taught to know the World, was so good as to be willing herself to take the Trouble of putting the finishing Stroke to my Education. At our parting we agreed upon the Day when we should meet again, and she made me, in spite of myself, accept of the first Toy that she laid her Hand upon, amongst a hundred that were upon her Toilette; it was a very handsome Gold Snuff-box.

I became generous in my Turn, I gave two Crowns to the old Woman who had conducted me thither; and for my Money I learned from her, that her Mistress, to whom I had not dared to express the least Curiosity, had been an Actress; that after having shined for some Time upon the Stage, she had retired, and very prudently satisfied herself with ruining a rich Dupe who loaded her with Presents; that this Gallant had passed the Night with her, with two of his Friends, and that they had been obliged to carry them all three from the Table to their Coaches.

I was

I was obliged to sink a little from the high Ideas I had conceived of my Heroine. I might indeed, by the Manner only in which she had sketched out this Intrigue, have guess'd rightly at her Condition ; but there are so many Women of Distinction, who outdo even these Princesses in a Debauch, that the Thing was very equivocal. If I lost on the Side of Honour, I was well made amends for it by the Pleasure of being beloved by a Woman extremely amiable, and in high vogue. Besides this, she sacrificed to me an illustrious Rival, a high and mighty Lord, with whom I was not a little proud of contracting such a Consanguinity.

The Day that we had chose for our second Interview, passed very agreeably. I returned to my Office with a Gold Repeating Watch, which I again could not excuse myself from accepting. It was the same in all the other Visits that I made to this generous Coquet. She always forced me to receive some Present from her, and among the rest a Ring, valued at a thousand Crowns,
which

which ten or twelve Years after I gave my Wife as a Marriage Present.

* In a Commerce of four or five Months, carried on in this *Peru*, I encreased my Finances so much, that I began to think I did my *Maltotier* a great deal of Honour in condescending to stay with him. Though almost all his Business passed through my Hands, he could not suspect me of having enriched myself in his House, since, properly speaking, I had the Direction of nothing but the Paper and the Ink-bottle; it was however from this House, I thought I could neither expect good nor harm, that the Storm rose which overturned my rising Fortune, and like a Whirlwind transported me into a Foreign Land, as I am going to relate to you.

The Intrigue of the officious Clerk, my Deputy Brother, with the Daughter of his Master, though conducted very secretly, became every Day more difficult to be concealed, and you will easily imagine why. The Shape of the dear
Creature

Creature increased visibly. The Mother perceived it, and advertised her Husband. They both held a Counsel thereupon, and sliding one Night into the Chamber of their Daughter, whilst she slept, they discovered what they sought for. Poor, and miserable *Calisto*, what a Confusion for thee to see thy guilty Plumpness exposed, not to the Eyes of the scrupulous Nymphs, but to those of an incensed Father and a furious Mother !

Upon the making this Discovery, the Father raised his Voice, and addressed these Words to his Daughter in so high a Tone, that I heard them distinctly in my Chamber, which was only separated from that where this Scene passed by a single Partition. Wretch that thou art, wilt thou then ruin us entirely ? Was not the unhappy Affair of *Abbeville* enough ? Must we again have the Vexation of giving the World a fresh Occasion to laugh at our Expence ? These Words were followed by a Shower of Blows, which the Mother poured upon the Delinquent, who finding herself wakened thus disagreeably, cried out most dreadfully.

fully. The *Financier*, more pacifick than his Wife, prevented her from continuing to abuse her Daughter, and demanded by whom she had had the Weakness to let herself be seduced. She hesitated some time before she answered, notwithstanding the Menaces they gave her if she did not speak; but whether she was afraid that the Meanness of her Inclination would draw upon her the Chastisement that they threatened, or that she was not sorry to have an Opportunity of revenging herself for the Contempt with which I had repaid a thousand Advances she had made me, and that she imagined they would oblige me to marry her, she had the Insolence to declare that it was I who had triumphed over her Virtue.

However astonished I was at the Impudence of this Accusation, I listened very attentively to the Remainder of a Scene which began to be very interesting to me. I did not lose one Word of it. The Husband and the Wife were very liberal to me in Epithets that shewed their Resentment. They were only embarrassed as to what kind of Ven-

Vengeance they should fix upon : The Wife talked of nothing but knocking out my Brains, and cudgelling me to Death ; but the *Maltotier*, less hasty and more political, was of Opinion, that to deliver themselves from such a Monster as their Daughter, it was proper to force me to marry her, and then abandon us both to our evil Destiny. If he pretends, added he, to make the least Resistance to our Commands, he shall rot in a Dungeon.

The Hopes that the Accusatrix had, that I should prefer the Possession of her, whatever Reasons I had to be dissatisfied with it, before a perpetual Prison, consoled her for the Blows that she had received. She told me the next Day, with an Air of Insolence, that it was by my own Fault that she had been reduced to the vexatious Necessity of employing a third Person to do me a Service in spite of myself ; that her Parents would never have consented to marry us but for this happy Fault, which an Excess of Love for me had made her guilty of. This might be true, and yet such was my Ingratitude, that, without think-

thinking myself obliged to her for her Favours, I very unpolitely took the Liberty of thrusting her by the Shoulders out of my Office, where she had the Assurance to come, and inform me of the Resolution her Father had taken to unite our Destinies.

The Moment after I had this Conversation with her, I saw the *Maltotier* appear, who addressed a long Discourse to me, which he had prepared to exaggerate the Goodness of his giving up his Daughter to an Adventurer, instead of putting him in the Hands of Justice, to have him punished as a Suborner of the Daughter of his Master. I answered him very coldly, that he was mistaken in me; that if his Daughter had made a false Step, I had not been the Occasion of it; that I thought her more proper to extinguish any loose Desires than to create them; and, in a word, that not having been her Gallant, I would never be her Husband.

The disdainful Air with which I pronounced these Words piqued the *Maltotier*, who, doing Violence to himself to conceal

conceal the Fury that transported him, said to me as he left me: My little Monsieur, make your Reflections upon what has been said, and don't force me to convince you that I have still Credit enough left to humble your Pride: I gave him an Answer, but he did not hear it, that my Resolution was already fixed, and that, very different from those idle Fellows who loved to find their Work done to their Hands, I should make a Conscience of enjoying the Fruits of my Neighbour's Labour.

The next Day the *Financier* asked me, what was my Resolution upon that which he had proposed to me. I told him, that I could not take any other than that of desiring him to provide himself with a new Clerk, and to examine my Books. This then, replied he, is the Conclusion of your Reflections. I am sorry for you. As he finished these Words he quitted me to go and employ his utmost Power against me, and to revenge himself for a Refusal, the Justice of which he was not sensible of.

His

His Endeavours were not fruitless: I was arrested two Days after in the Street by a Troop of Archers, who seized upon me in a Moment. It was in vain to tell them I had no design to make the least Resistance, they shook and tofs'd me the more, as every Shake made something fall into their Hands, either my Snuff-box, my Watch, or my Money. They afterwards put me into a Hackney Coach, and conveyed me to the Chatelet. Before I arrived there, I took notice that I had still my Ring upon my Finger; happily for me my Guards had not perceived it; to preserve it from the Talons of these Birds of Prey, who are licensed Robbers, I contrived with my Teeth to loosen it out of the Collet, and I kept it in my Mouth.

Doubtless, what had determined the *Maltotier* to lodge me so speedily in the Chatelet, was, that he had heard there was a large Convoy to depart immediately for *Canada*. In effect, I had not the Chagrin of laying upon Straw; for that very Night I was taken out of Prison to be transported to *Quebec*, with
all

all the honest People who were then sent to stock that Colony. When I found that I was to take this involuntary Voyage for the Punishment of my Sins, I took it in my Head to be refractory, and to protest that they were mistaken in seizing upon me : They made a Jest of my Remonstrances, and I gained nothing but Blows by them, or rather the Officers who conducted us were paid for that Purpose. I had been well recommended to them. I perceived that when instead of suffering me to go on Foot with a great Number of those who like myself were going by force into *Canada*, they did me the Honour to put me amongst the People of Distinction, I mean amongst those who went this Journey in an Equipage. They granted me a Place in a Waggon, where two redoubtable Archers, armed with Carabines, occupied each End, and kept us in Awe.

*The End of the THIRD BOOK, and
of the FIRST VOLUME.*